The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. VII.---NO. 28. WEEKLY EDITION. MAY 14, 1870.

THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL

A LARGE SHEET CONTAINING ALL THE CURRENT NEWS, MISCELLANEOUS, LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE, AND VALUABLE READING FOR THE FAMILY.

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For Year, (52 issues) $2 00
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AN INVITATION TO THE COUNTRY.

Already, close by our summer dwelling,
The Easter sparrow repeats her song;
A merry warbler, she chides the blossoms—
The idle blossoms that sleep so long.

The blue bird chants from the elm's long branches,
A hymn to welcome the budding year;
The south wind wanders from field to forest,
And softly whispers: The spring is here.

Come daughter mine from the gloomy city,
Before those lays from the elm have ceased;
The violet sweet, ere, by our door, as sweetly
As in the air of her native East.

Though many a flower in the woods is waking:
The daffodil in our doorside queen;
The jasmine upon the sward already,
To spot with sunshine the early green.

No lays so joyous as these are warbled
By wiry prison in maiden's bower:
No pampered bloom of the green-house chamber
Has half the charm of the lawn's first flower.

Yet these sweet sounds or the early season,
And these fair sights of its sunny days,
Are only sweet when we fondly listen,
And only fair when we fondly gaze.

There is no glory in star or blossom,
Till looked upon by a loving eye:
There is no fragrance in April breezes,
Till breathed with joy as they wander by.

Come, Julia dear, for the sprouting willows,
The opening flowers and the running brooks,
And hollows green in the sun, are waiting
Their dower of beauty from thy glad looks.

W. C. Bryant.

THE TARIFF BILL.

The Steel Clause—A Set up Thing—Let the Bill go Down—Evil Influences.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, May 3d, 1870.

The House to-day disposed of one entire page of the Tariff bill, by striking out the paragraphs on castings, glazed, tinned and enameled hollow ware, cast iron steam, gas and water pipes and castings of iron not otherwise provided for.

The great contest then commenced on cast and other descriptions of steel in blooms, billets, bars, rods, sheets, slabs, plates, coils or strips.

The Ways and Means Committee advised a duty of 3¼ cents, which, it was shown, would be less than 37½ ₰ cent. *ad valorem*. This duty, after a heated and animated debate, was cut down to 2½ cents per pound, at which rate our steel works must continue to operate—such a reduction of labor and materials and fuel shall occur as will enable them to compete with the Sheffield works. The higher rate was ably advocated by Scofield, Negley, Shellabarger, and Cleveland, and opposed with the most bitter and vehement denunciations by Allison, Brooks, Ingersoll, Judd, Asper and Eldridge. The argument was all on the side of the higher rate, but the thing was set up, and no possibility remained to the friends of the bill to reverse the vote of 78 to 69, nor could there be found a striking out the clause (which would leave the duty as now), the vote being 64 to 75.

For this result, as I have always anticipated, we have to thank the influence of many New England members, who, having secured their own interests by ample protection—leaving them undisturbed,—with a duty of 45 percent. on all steel goods, are so unjust as to cut down the duty on what they call their *raw material* to a rate which will not exceed 25 per cent. *ad valorem*.

I hope before the bill is passed by the House a proposition to reduce duties on all *manufactures of steel* to 25 per cent., will also be adopted, so that they may enjoy a taste of their own gruel.

The next clause on steel, of circular shapes or forms, cut, rolled or hammered to pattern, not otherwise provided for, was reduced from 4 cents to 3½ cents—a singular inequality, and showing a reckless indifference to the proper adjustment of the relative value of the respective kinds of steel.

The next clause on Bessemer rails, &c., was passed at $56 per ton of 2,240 pounds—instead of 2 cents per pound as provided in the bill. This is equivalent to a duty of 82½ per cent *ad valorem*. So steel rails are protected by three times the percentage of duty that is allowed by these sole-leather legislating members to all other steel.

It will be observed that in a house with 225 members on roll, the highest vote by tellers was 145, absentees 83, or over one-third of the whole body. Let this be a lesson of protection against upon the defeat of the bill. It is their only salvation, except that it is not believed to stand a glimmer of chance in the Senate. A prominent member of the body last enforced that some days ago, that it would surely be badly beaten, and in double quick time. I wish I may not be understood as condemning the duty upon Bessemer rails. I believe that a lower rate would be fatal to the manufacture of steel rails in the United States, and I only refer to the per centage, as a remarkable and striking contrast with the treatment of an interest of double the magnitude at the present time, and equally entitled to be protected.

Whether British gold or Yankee selfishness predominated in achieving the result of driving the American steel manufacture to the wall, so far as this day's work could show, I do not pretend to say. Perhaps both had something to do with it. There were many Republican members from New England who sustained the Ways and Means Committee, but the fact cannot be ignored that the defeat came from that quarter mainly, and with the help of such fishy Republicans from the West as Garfield, Allison, Judd, Ingersoll, Brooks, and some others, whose importance amounts to a vote a piece, and that is all.

These gentlemen must make up their minds to meet the issue as between protection to home industry and free trade. The Republican party must stand or fall upon this issue, and the sooner it sloughs off these free trade excrescences, the sooner will it unfetter its own integrity, and command the confidence of the people. C.

LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS.

The Importance of Honest Men for Representatives and Senators—Voice of the Republican Press.

The Philadelphia *Post* says: There is too much at issue in the coming contest to assume the risk of a defeat from the unpopular nominations. The State must be reapportioned next winter, and if we permit it to pass into Democratic control, we will be furnished with such boundaries for districts as will prevent us from crossing for several years. If we have good nominations there can be no doubt of a Republican triumph; but if we are to carry such burdens as will be saddled on the party by bearing men like Adsire, and Bunn, and Hong, and Stokes, there will be very serious doubts of the issue. Such men cannot and should not receive the support of the masses. They have betrayed the confidence of the people and brought disgrace upon the party that honored them with preferment. They have demonstrated their entire unfitness to hold any position where honesty is implied or required, and they will force such nominations again upon the people to be taken there against their sentiments as powder is spurned by the fire. Let us resolve to avert the impending danger by throwing these political Jonahs into the sea, and our cause will be saved from defeat and our names rescued from doubt and dishonor.

The Harrisburg correspondent of the Altoona *Radical* says: Boiled down, the only bad in the Republican party can be summed up in two words—Adsire and Bunn. For years it has been the festering sore, the gangrene, the thing of stench in the nostrils of honest men. Driven out of every other department of State where honesty is a virtue, the vultures that feed upon the people have uniformly succeeded in debauching enough so-called Representatives, of both parties, to mould the legislation of the Commonwealth to suit their execrable evil, and has for ten years been receiving the earnest attention of the earnest men of both parties. The cause is not so much in the want of intelligence in the mass, as want of integrity in those elected. It don't require much brains to be honest. It don't require a Webstenian intellect to frame good, wholesome laws. Honesty and ability coupled with old fashioned horse sense is the mental requisite—unimpeachable integrity, the moral. The religious element must come up to the work. One such man as Adsire or primary election against a corrupt, immoral, unworthy candidate reaches the Throne of God which a half dozen prayers from a pious sinning the "Divine blessing upon those in authority," glances off in a shower of "Amens." Beecher was right when he affirmed that "a club was more effective on some people than the grace of God." We trust the help of the Christian men. It is as much their duty to attend the nominating as the prayer meeting, and I speak reverently when I say that whenever a professing Christian votes for a man whose his influence to nominate a candidate known to be a drunkard, or a gambler, or an immoral man, at the request of a friend, he does that friend more of that friend than of his friend, and belongs to the "ring" of Satan. Christ is not the head " " " I know men in the last Legislature, of both parties, who would not like to borrowed twenty dollars without giving good security, and who would have had great difficulty in getting the loan. I know a member who nobody outside of the Asylum, who knew them, would think of intrusting with the money. These men get there through no merit of their own. They were nominated by—by parties, Bipartisan, Tripartisan, Quadripartisan for the purpose. It is a "sectarian book," the Bible admonishes that no man should be sectarian. It it must be cast out of the schools because of its sectarian character, then it must be cast out of the Legislature. Their eyes can not be sworn upon it, and the inmates of our charitable institutions, which are supported out of the public funds, must not be allowed to read it. It must be if the first steps be taken, where it will stop. Destroy the authority of the Bible, which a formal vote of legislation would at least have the tendency to do so far as many are concerned, and then you ignore the grand foundation of all law and equity in all ages of the world.

Although there are many things in it which the unperverted mind cannot comprehend, and explain, and the capacious mind of an archangel cannot comprehend, nevertheless it is the Bible for the common people, the understanding and wants of a child. It contains milk for babes, and strong meat for a man would choke upon. It is the child's primer, the philosopher's masterpiece, and the mathematician's calculus.

So far as variety and matter, such as would interest the common understanding, there is no better scholastic text-book. Turn for a moment to the opening chapter of Genesis, and you will at once be convinced of the truthfulness of the assertion we have made. Here we have an account of "heaven and earth," "darkness," "light," "day," "night," "waters," "seas," "grass," "herb," "tree," "fruit," "seed," "fowl," "stars," and many other things in which from the first dawnings of intelligence children take a keen interest. Most of the names of things contained in the first chapters of Genesis are monosyllables or dissyllables, easily learned, spelled and pronounced. In no other book could so much information be obtained as there is found such an interesting variety of juvenile literature as that which is contained in the Book of books.

Sir William Jones, a man of no mean authority, in speaking of the Bible, says in this article "I have regularly and attentively perused these sacred volumes, and am of opinion that this volume, independently of its divine origin, contains more true sublimity, more exquisite beauty, more pathos and more important history, and finer strains of poetry and more correct and sublime morality, than all other books, in whatever age or language they may have been written. The unstrained applications of the finest parts of it to events which took place long after the composition, is to me solid ground for belief that they are genuine predictions, and consequently inspired."

Would you vote or legislate a work of such literary merit out of institutions of learning, however humble or distinguished? If you would, you would cast away the great and unerring standard of all excellence, you would blot out the great intellectual sun, which has illumined the darkened understandings of men with its pure, brilliant and superior light, in all ages of the world.

3. *It is a book of peace, of love, of charity.* Such a book ought to be voted out of the schools? You might just as well vote out the Great God himself. We make this assertion with all the more earnestness, because we never entertain a different opinion on this subject.

4. *It is a book of sure morals.* Let us notice now a few objections which have been urged against retaining the Bible in the public schools.

1. *It is urged that the State should have nothing to do with religion.* We have already stated that we have no religion in the schools, but what is established by law. But those who maintain that government, or the State have nothing to do with religion; that they are not, in other words, to legislate for the moral and religious citizenship. The Jew is compelled to close his establishment on the first day of the week, although he believes that the seventh day is sacred to the worship of the God of his fathers, for there are the highest reasons for the observance of the Christian religion, could not do otherwise. We do not see that we are violating Christianity, even practical or experimental religion to be taught the command, Do to others as you would that others should do to you. Legislation such as this is a Christian nation, and recognizes not a sectarian, but a Bible Christianity—this, and nothing but this—our children should be allowed, without let or hindrance, to read the Word of God in the public schools, when it is the desire of their parents that they should do so. The good fruits of the Bible are seen to flow by this course. No one that professes christianity, in any form, should object to this, if the Bible is allowed to be the own interpreter, inasmuch as it is the common standard of appeal of all christian sects. In fact, if such was the perfect faith in that form of Christianity to which it adheres, and is fully convinced that it is founded upon the unerring Word of God, it should rather rejoice that such privilege is granted; for, if their faith is well grounded, they will be filled with hope, that it will be the means of converting many to the same form of Christianity which they profess.

If they believe that the entrance of God's Word gives light, and makes wise the simple, that it is the only guide to eternal happiness and life, why should they interpose any objection to its being read at any time or in any place? Experience has taught us all that children require to have every available restraint of a morality known and practiced in the Word of God is possessed of sanctifying influence, and leads to the highest standard of morals, and reveals to the sinner the only way of happiness in this life and that to be excluded from our schools, and the children deprived of the salutary lessons it imparts!

It is God's own book. He intends all, without distinction of sect, to read it. It is given to all. Give it to the blind, it is their light; to the sinner, it is the bread of heaven; to the hungry, it is their food; to the thirsty, it is their drink; to sinners, it is their salvation; to the dying, for it has come down from heaven and their only consolation; to the unlearned, for it is their spiritual guide. Remember, that in it they may see their folly, for in the language of another: "There is more of grandeur in the lofty simplicity of Isaiah, than in the sublime arrogance of Æschylus; the notions of the human mind are poor and grovelling as the Psalmist than by the Eclipse of Sophocles; the sayings of Solomon are stored with more light than all the meretricious splendors of Apostle's court; and the words under which Paul trembled, are more elegant than the more eloquently to the heart of man, than all the productions of genius that have ever been intellectuous respect.

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THE BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS.

A Protestant and a Catholic View.

Sermon by Rev. John Douglas, D. D.

Lecture by Very Rev. Father Hickey.

Rev. John Douglas, D. D., pastor of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of this city, delivered a sermon before his congregation Sunday evening, on "The Bible in the Schools," and Very Rev. Father Hickey, Vicar General of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, delivered a lecture in St. Paul's Cathedral the same evening, on "The Church and the Schools." The audiences were large at both places, and the addresses were listened to with more than ordinary interest. Following is a report of the discourses:

The Bible in the Schools.

BY THE REV. JOHN DOUGLAS, D. D.

Deuteronomy, 6 c 8—7 vs. And these words, which I command thee t-to-day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sit est in thine house and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou lest down, and when thou rosest up.

Among the Hebrews great care was bestowed upon the education of children. The precepts of the divine law were instilled into their young minds. They were carefully instructed in the science of civil polity, and thoroughly educated in all the laws and institutions of the commonwealth. In the training of their children the Jews combined religious with secular instruction.

The command contained in the text was not given to the parents as such. The injunction to impart religious instruction to the young and rising generation, was laid upon the nation in its organic capacity. This appears evident from the context, and especially from the fourth chapter, where we find among others, the following words: "Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments which I teach you, for to do them that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you. Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do so in the land whither you go to possess it. Keep, therefore, and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say: Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons—Deuteronomy, chapter iv, 9.

The following considerations show that it is the duty of the State to establish schools:

1. *It possesses literary merit of the highest order.* It is the only history of the creation and early formation of the world. Were it not for the revelations contained in this book, many important and natural phenomena which would have remained inexplicable forever. The creation of the world, the formation of man, the introduction of moral evil, and many other things which were originally involved in impenetrable darkness, are now made satisfactorily accessible to the human mind. The most ancient history contained in the Bible.

Lord Macaulay observes that the English Bible is "the best standard of the English language we have at this day." It is admitted by all that the English language is a noble tongue, and a translation of the Hebrew language. It is the language of inspiration, and of infallible truth. Without it Cowper could never have accomplished his task, Milton would never have sung of Paradise lost, or Paradise regained and Shakespeare would be destitute of his brilliant imagery and gorgeous embellishments. Indeed, the English Bible formed up at his success in letters, eloquence and statesmanship to the daily and attentive perusal of the Scriptures. Hallam says: "The Bible is the source to the "the source of all true poetry and eloquence, as well as of all sound religion and law."

Although there are many things in it which the unperverted mind cannot comprehend, and explain, and the capacious mind of an archangel cannot comprehend, nevertheless it is the Bible for the common people, the understanding and wants of a child. It contains milk for babes, and strong meat for a man would choke upon. It is the child's primer, the philosopher's masterpiece, and the mathematician's calculus.

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SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1870.

THE PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

A bill establishing the Department of Justice has been passed by the lower House of Congress and is now pending in the Senate. The subject has attracted so little of the public attention, that few people have any knowledge of the provisions or merits of the proposed measure. In answer to inquiries made, and for the public information, we have to state that the bill contemplates a reorganization of the law department of the executive government.

Originally the powers and duties of the Attorney General were within a very narrow compass. Without being regarded as a member of the Cabinet, he was the legal adviser of the President and heads of departments, and was charged with the trial of suits in which the United States had an interest in the Supreme Court. It is said that WILLIAM WIRT, when Attorney General, with the assistance of his daughter as clerk and copyist, was able, without other help, to discharge all the duties of his office. Since that time the political importance of the office has increased a hundred fold, and new, numerous, diversified and very onerous and responsible duties have been devolved on the Attorney General. He is now the head of a department and a member of the Cabinet. He is responsible for all pardons granted or refused. He is the special and confidential adviser of the President in reference to the appointment of United States Judges, District Attorneys and Marshals. His duties and labors in the Supreme Court have been increased a hundred fold. Congress has interposed at different times, and created the offices of Assistant Attorney General and Chief Clerk, and a half dozen subordinate clerkships, but the department has not been reorganized or changed otherwise than as above indicated, for forty years.

In the meantime the legal business of the Government has fallen into an anomalous condition. The Solicitor of the Treasury has charge of all the matters of law in which that department has concern, except internal revenue cases. The Solicitor of Internal Revenue is an independent law officer, whose principal duty is to advise the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. The Navy Department has also its authorized law expositor, while the Postoffice Department, and perhaps the Interior, too, have clerks detailed to discharge duties strictly legal. In addition to the services rendered by these Solicitors and law clerks, private counsel have been of late years employed to advise the State Department and assist in the trial of causes in which the Treasury Department was interested, involving an expenditure since 1864 of $700,000 in payment of charges for special legal services. The District Attorneys, though nominally under the supervision of the Attorney General, are practically under the direction of the Treasury Department, three-fourths of their business having relation to the revenue laws.

The result of this various disorder is that the Law Department of the Government has not the cognizance and supervision of one-tenth part of the legal business of the United States. As might be expected, the opinions of solicitors and law clerks are found to conflict with each other and with those of the Attorney General. Totally different constructions of the same statute are said to prevail at different departments of the executive government, and the general results are confusion, uncertainty and contradiction.

The bill referred to proposes a reorganization of the Attorney General's office. The office of Solicitor General is to be created. The law offices of the other departments are to be transferred to the Department of Justice, and placed under the supervision and direction of the Attorney General. All the legal business of the United States is thus put in one hand. In short, we are to have in reality what we have had only in name—a regularly organized law department, in harmonious connection with the other departments. We hope that the bill will pass at the present session of Congress, and an end be put to the extravagant expenditures in the employment of private counsel who will no longer be needed. It will place the Attorney General's office, too, on such footing that with a proper gradation of officers, all will be made subordinate to one responsible chief.

BRITISH GOLD AND POLITICAL ECONOMY.

Journals and lecturers whose labors are directed in the interest of free trade, sometimes make merry, and sometimes express indignation, under the imputation that their cause in this country is sustained, or in any manner, aided by the expenditure of British gold. A charge of this kind is so easily made that candid persons may well regard it with some distrust, especially when it is understood as impugning the integrity of men whose character commands the respect of the people who know them most intimately. Hence, we believe that many men of liberal minds, not familiarly conversant with the operations of the Free Trade League, and regarding the charge as involving direct corruption, hastily reject it as being quite destitute of truth or meaning. And yet no allegation not demonstratively proved can be more probable than the statement that sums larger or smaller of English money are yearly expended in the United States for the promotion of free trade views. The reports of the League to which we have referred, show that its operations are very costly. These operations include organizations of greater or less extent in every section of the country, lectures, the circulation of pamphlets, tracts, &c., and the establishment and maintenance of newspapers, notoriously necessitating a great outlay of money. Whence are these funds derived? It is no secret that "nine-tenths of the subscriptions acknowledged by the Free Trade League have been contributed by houses engaged in foreign trade." These parties are so immediately interested in the prevalence of the doctrines of the society that, as shrewd business men, they know that it is impossible for them to invest their money in a manner more likely to pay. And are we to believe that the great British merchants, who would receive still larger profits from the abolition of protection to the Tariff, the main neutral in the contest? That they and other Englishmen are willing to contribute to the great *missionary* work of the League we know by indisputable evidence. A short time ago, the "Council of the Financial Reform Association of Liverpool" wrote to the Free Trade League of New York, *offering to get up subscriptions in England in aid of the cause.*" Of course, this patent offer was declined by the sagacious society to which it was made, on the ground that "help from 'the Britisher' would really be more prejudicial than beneficial to their cause." Quite likely this result was expected by the peculiarly disinterested parties who proposed to give their aid. In fact, the entire correspondence looks very much like a clumsily adroit *coup* to relieve a prevalent impression—"What! are aided by British contributions! Sir, have you not seen the correspondence between our treasurer and the secretary of &c., &c.?"

No! in the face of the prejudice alluded to in this correspondence, in no such open manner are contributions for the great cause given and received. But no man capable of seeing farther than his nose, doubts that, in spite of all protestations, English money in large sums may be expended in this country for the inauguration of free trade. How easily the transaction may be managed! Any merchant in Liverpool or London can send a thousand or five thousand pounds as a subscription to the League through his correspondent in New York or Boston. Who doubts that contributions have been sent in that way, or that they have been accepted and used by the League?

In the position occupied by many of the members of this organization, all funds raised and expended for the inauguration of their favorite policy seem to the mind devoted to a grand philanthropic object. They fancy themselves standing on the high grounds of philosophic truth, from which they look down, like the sage of Lucretius, upon unhappy mortals wandering in the darkness of error. In fact, this delusion is the strength of the cause with great numbers of our countrymen. A few of those free traders have read a good deal on the subject of political economy; the majority of them, however, do not possess even a smattering of the subject. But they have been told, again and again, that free trade is founded upon scientific truth, held by all advanced economic thinkers. Hence they, too, would fain be deemed advanced thinkers, or at least not in antagonism with them. Hence the multitude among us, we fear, increasing, who, imposed upon by the arrogant pretensions and reckless assertions of sciolists, become themselves the propagators of error. They are ignorant of the history of political economy; and do not know that most of its doctrines have been the arenas of battle from the beginning. As mere theoretical abstractions, few of them have commanded the assent of the ablest specialists at any time, while a long ago exploded, Ricardo confuting Smith, and Mill, Ricardo—and so on *ad infinitum*. Southey's opinion of political economists is well known, and is, perhaps, not of much value in a scientific point of view. But as evidence of the difficult and complicated character of their subject Daniel Webster's opinion is worthy of attention. Writing to Mr. Dutton he said:

> "For my part, though I like the investigation of particular questions, I give in to what is called the science of political economy. There is no such science. There are no principles on this subject fixed and invariable as that their aggregate constitutes a science."

A favorite subject of declamation with the opponents of a tariff is the alleged unanimity of the political economists in regard to the *bizarre* system in force. Not only the argument for protection founded on the advantages of national independence is met by the assertion that the same thinkers all consider those advantages as counterbalanced by the blessings of free trade. For the benefit of the persons who make or who believe such assertions we quote a passage from the *American Political Economy* of Professor Francis Bowen, of Harvard University. Many of our readers probably know that Professor Bowen is recognized as one of the ablest living masters of the range of subjects of which Political Economy is one:

> "The policy of States leads them to seek independence of each other in their economical as much as in their political relations, or we might better say that political independence requires that we should not be entirely dependent upon foreigners for the supply of articles of prime importance. . . . That we should have within our own borders, and under our own control, the means of supplying all our natural and imperative wants. It is not de ironie that Massachusetts and Ohio should be rendered as far independent of each other that each could obtain from the other, in exchange for the labor of its own inhabitants, all that it can need; for those two States are in many of their political relations. Members of the same great nation, speaking the same language, and each exercising its due share of influence in the laws, neither can cause any permanent injury, or injurious action of the other. The political ties which bind them together are always separated by a great breadth of ocean, and by dissimilarity of institutions and laws. . . .

> "The independence, in an economical point of view, does not appear to us to be forced by the general course with other nations; this would be rather a close than a blessing. It is not desirable that a nation should be able to exercise, within its own limits, all the great branches of industry which can satisfy the wants of man. It must be able to practice all the arts which are required for supplying the ordinary wellbeing if it were the only nation on the earth. If it be restricted in agriculture alone a portion of the energies of its people are lost, and some of the natural advantages run to waste. To be so limited in its liberty of action, is to be compelled to a waste of the natural and necessary employments of the human race. . . . The principle of unlimited competition of foreigners, is a serious evil, which it is for society a protective policy to diminish as far as it can. On whatever ol. er grounds this policy may be objected to, it is surely not open to the objection of being an infringement of the *laissez faire* principle, or a restriction of man's right to make such laws as he pleases of his own industry and capital. The object is not to narrow the field in which the free and profitable employment of industry and to second the working of the beneficent designs of Providence in the construction of society, by removing all artificial and unnecessary checks to their operation."

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT.

The Executive Committee of the Philadelphia Democracy recently met and "illuminated against the Fifteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments in this wise:

> That the Democratic party, relying on the power of the people e, which, misdirected by error, will certainly be led at last by justice, to the right, declares that the so-called amendments to the Constitution are unconstitutional, void and of no effect, because said pretended amendments to the constitution as that instrument is proposed to be amended by Congressional usurpation is consummated by fraud, force and violence, and therefore is an infringement of the letter and spirit of the supreme law of the land, in which amendments they never were submitted to the States, or adopted by the votes of the people of the several States, constituted as sovereign and independent governments, but were so forced upon a subjugated people by military despotism, and can never be maintained as the acts of regular and lawful authority, but are treasonable in fact and cannot be proclaimed as the supreme law, which power belongs to the States, and to the people, provides it may be ordained by States *de jure* and *de facto* represented in the Congress of the United States, on the basis of separate sovereignty and equality.

> That the faithful of the Democratic party of the city of Philadelphia in the City Executive committee here by protest against the usurpation of the Congressional and revolutionary acts of Congress in forcing its so-called amendments under the so-called reconstruments of the constitution, on the people of the United States.

The resolution of the Philadelphia Democracy no doubt correctly represents the political sentiments of the party everywhere. It not only gave no support to, but strenuously resisted with all its organized strength the adoption, successively, of these three great measures. The old "Bourbons" have neither learned nor forgotten anything during the last ten years. They would go into another Presidential campaign on the "issue" of the "so-called amendments," which they still declare to be "unconstitutional, revolutionary and void," and to have been "forced upon a subjugated people by military despotism." The Young Democracy, clad in the traditions of the party, and sharing the political sentiments and antipathies of the old leaders as regards the colored people, is keen-eye to the future. They recognize "the logic of events" and see clearly enough, however reluctant to admit it, that the "issues' connected with the negro question are settled forever. That no party can hope for success on the basis of disturbing the settlement. The prospect of being in a hopeless minority is not an agreeable one to the ambitious politician of this school, and the subordination of political and personal antipathies in the interests of party success is counseled in high quarters. The New York *World*, the organ of the Young Democracy, indulges in the following speculations in an article in which it gives editorial prominence to the Philadelphia resolutions:

> The amendments to the Federal Constitution which the seq uitchers have carried by coercion, are three: The thirteenth, known as the abolition amendment, declaring the negroes citizens; and the fifteenth, making them voters. The same objection may be made to all these amendments, that they did not receive the necessary deliberative affirmative of the States. And yet the first of the three will never be disturbed. There is no l ader, and no will, to repudiate it, notwithstanding the irregularity of the step by which it was abolished, and the unlawful character of the amendments to the Constitution procured by the coercion of the States. Were a similar acquiescence in the second of the series, which declares that negroes are citizens, and therefore voters of the States, the party have been held in every state of the Union within the last two years, and there is not one of them has any purpose been expressed of annulling the first two amendments. Evidently the Democratic party does no consider it e bound by the bargain struck between the men at the of coercion, to wage a bootless war against accomplished facts. But the Pennsylvania and Ohio should be rendered as far independent of each other that each could obtain from the other, in exchange for the labor of its own inhabitants, all that it can need; for those two States are in many of their political relations. Members of the same great nation, speaking the same language, and each exercising its due share of influence in the laws, neither can cause any permanent injury, or injurious action of the other. The political ties which bind them together are always separated by a great breadth of ocean, and by dissimilarity of institutions and laws. . . .

> The independence, in an economical point of view, does not appear to us to be forced by the general course with other nations; this would be rather a close than a blessing. It is not desirable that a nation should be able to exercise, within its own limits, all the great branches of industry which can satisfy the wants of man. It must be able to practice all the arts which are required for supplying the ordinary well being if it were the only nation on the earth. If it be restricted in agriculture alone a portion of the energies of its people are lo t, and some of the natural advantages run to waste. To be so limited in its liberty of action, is to be compelled to a waste of the natural and necessary employments of the human race. . . . The principle of unlimited competition of foreigners, is a serious evil, which it is for society a protective policy to diminish as far as it can. On whatever ol. er grounds this policy may be objected to, it is surely not open to the objection of being an infringement of the *laissez faire* principle, or a restriction of man's right to make such laws as he pleases of his own industry and cap tal. The object is not to narrow the field in which the free and profitable employment of industry and to second the working of the beneficent designs of Providence in the construction of society, by removing all artificial and unnecessary checks to their operation."

The Philadelphia "Bourbons" are not likely to relish this policy of "*attent* acquiescence." Meantime Brick Pomeroy, who is a candidate for John Morrissey's seat in Congress, declares that if he were Governor of New York the Fifteenth Amendment *should not be executed* in the Empire State, unless the people of the Democratic party ½ consented, the orders of the President and Congress to the contrary notwithstanding.

On the whole, there appears to be little prospect of harmony and cordial co-operation between the rival factions of the Democratic party. One thing, however, is clear enough. None of the present race of Democrats are likely to give their approbation to the Fifteenth Amendment. After another Republican victory or two there may be a general, though sullen, acquiescence.

Let the Republican party gird up its loins for another battle. We may expect the customary declamation about "usurpations," "military despotism," "subjugated people," &c., &c.; but we entertain a reasonable expectation that another campaign will exhaust this article of the Democratic stock in trade. The colored citizen and voter knows his friends very well. Let us hope that in a short time, having already become a citizen and voter, with the rights of other citizens and voters, he will, though hated by the Democracy, pass out the domain of political agitation.

THE ELECTION IN FRANCE.

Though full returns have not been received, enough is known to assure us that the result of the *Plebiscite* is a very large affirmative vote. Few have been surprised by the event, as it was confidently expected by well informed people that, even without active interference on the part of the Government, the friends of order would eagerly take advantage of the opportunity to express themselves in its favor. Liberty has often been placed at a disadvantage in France, by the character and conduct of its advocates; but, perhaps it has never been more manifestly sacrificed, or made to wear a less attractive aspect than by its most demonstrative French worshippers, during the last few years. The French love to personify their idol, and, adopting their language, we may justly say that the lineaments of the goddess have seemed quite lost in the features of the hag or the bacchante. The embarrassed position in which the Emperor was placed by the failure of his schemes of aggrandizement, and the necessity thus imposed upon him of giving up personal government, afforded the most admirable opportunities for the consolidation and establishment of constitutional freedom on a firm basis. But the advances made in the direction of results so desirable, have been achieved amidst the most vexatious opposition on the part of the loud voiced idolators of a liberty which would be more appropriately called license. Weeks ago, the Irreconcilables by their speeches, writings and conduct, made it evident to the most obtuse property holder in the Empire, that the triumph of those Democrats or Republicans, as they claimed to be, would be the triumph of socialism and anarchy.

Even in France, it seems, there has been a want of clearness in the notions of many as to the real purport and scope of the election of the eighth instant, and we may hardly assume that, in this country, all are better informed. A brief reference to former elections of the kind may, therefore, be satisfactory to some.

Before the *Plebiscite* of the present month, the friends of the established government were at some pains to point out, for the benefit of the voters, what would be the precise effect of the expression of sentiment which they were called upon to give. They were reminded that, by the *Plebiscite* of the 20th and 21st of December, 1851, and by the *Plebiscite* of the 21st and 22d of November, 1852, they had declared their approval of the *coup d'etat* of the 2d of December, 1851, and their approval of the Empire established November 7th, 1852. In the first of these acts, of 9,945,086 registered voters and of 7,773,646 actual voters, 7,147,635 were affirmative. In the second act 7,482,853 were affirmative. On the 8th instant the people were called upon neither to affirm nor to set aside either of these acts, but to say *yes* or *no* to the following twofold question: Do the French people approve or disapprove of the supersession or replacement of personal government by parliamentary government with ministerial responsibility as it exists in England and in Belgium? Are the people willing or unwilling that in them shall in future be invested the constituent power hitherto inhering in the Senate? It is understood, then, that by its vote on the 8th instant the French nation has indorsed and approved the liberal reforms introduced by a succession of *Senatus consultes*.

As among these reforms are comprehended the liberty of the press and the liberty of holding public meetings, it is really difficult to understand the grounds upon which a limited number of the friends of order and property so vehemently exhorted the people to vote "No!" or not to vote at all on the matter submitted to them. With the military power of the country in the hands of the Emperor and no thought of abdicating in his grasp, no doubt, what was there to be gained by the refusal to endorse his liberal policy. Suppose a majority of the ten millions of registered electors had voted in the negative, what would have been the consequence? By such a decision personal government with all its despotism, would have been restored. And then must have followed absolute submission, or an attempt at revolution. With the "spectre rouge" hovering in the air, and the Emperor near the end of his career, the prospect could hardly seem pleasing to good citizens. Between the peaceful evolution of liberty, promised by the events of the last year, on the one hand, and a sanguinary revolution on the other, the choice would not appear difficult. The actual result; we do not doubt that the Emperor will use his victory in accordance with the principles of progressive reform. His only hope of the succession of his son probably rests upon the quiet enthronement of constitutional government. He will, therefore, steadily pursue the work of reconciliation, and by every means endeavor to harmonize parties and remove obstructions, with the view of establishing his dynasty in the person of Napoleon the Fourth.

THE MEANING OF OUR LATE WAR.

During the prevalence of the war for the Union, the unanimity of Northern enthusiasm was really a very remarkable phenomenon. The more carefully and studiously any one inquires into the moral condition of other nations in the times of civil dissension, the more wonderful, we believe, will appear the singleness of purpose and the devotion to one end that characterized the attitude of the population of the free States towards the rebellion. True, there was among us an anti-war party, there were a few who labored and may have prayed for the success of the South—but, in view of the heterogeneous character of the population, the vast extent of territory, and the consequent possibilities of conflicting sectional interests, the degree of harmony of feeling and patient steadfastness with which the hardships and sacrifices of that terrible war were endured by the many millions of the Northern States is, we confidently believe, one of the most marvellous phenomena in history. Of course such unanimity had a cause. The war was waged for no subtle abstraction, or antiquated sentiment, such as only certain minds were capable of fully grasping, or certain natures susceptible of feeling. Its objects appealed to all hearts capable of sympathy and to all understandings able to appreciate the calamity of the permanent degradation of labor, as well as to the comparatively few qualified to forecast the miseries certain to flow from a divided Union. And we doubt not that the lapse of years will tend to enhance the gratitude which the country owes to the men who sacrificed their lives for the rescue of the nation from the woes impending over its future. It is only in view of such considerations that the act of the House of Representatives, of a few days ago, can be justly judged. They passed a resolution devoting the thirtieth of May to a national solemnity, of which the object shall be to pay homage to the memory of the dead, by decorating the graves of the soldiers who fell during the war for the suppression of the rebellion. We have seen some unfavorable comment called forth by this act. These critics object to the institution as tending to keep alive the animosities of the war. In general, no doubt, the sooner the recollections of the survivors and their descendants die better. There was true wisdom in the Roman ordinance which forbade the perpetuation of such recollections by monuments, and withheld a triumph from the victor in civil strife. Our late war, however, was not a mere civil war, in the historical sense of the word. Its end was not to maintain one dynasty by expelling another, nor was it to substitute one form of government for another. As intimated above, the North fought to sustain principles essential to the welfare of humanity. In saying this we do not beg the question, as in the entire enlightened world there is no room for controversy on the subject. Even among the men who fought on the other side many already admit the truth, and it is quite certain that in the course of no very long period it will be an admitted truth by them as by us. It is, we suppose, for the interest of the country that the memory of the conflict should be kept alive as the triumph of freedom over slavery and of right over wrong. The animosities of the war will inevitably die out with time and with the change of mind in those who meditated the establishment of a commonwealth on the corner stone of slavery. And the time will doubtless come when the descendants of the men who devised and fought for such wrong, while pitying the mistake of their ancestors, will unite in honoring the memory of the men who defeated them.

THE FRENCH LOAN.

England's readiness to interpose for the rectification of wrongs in other countries is well known trait. At the same time, it seems hardly credible that the present ministry purpose to intervene for the suppression of brigandage in Greece. To accomplish the object nothing less than the permanent occupation of the country would suffice, and if that measure should be proposed, some of the other "powers" would surely have something to say in the way of objection or protest. Were the late affair near Marathon a sufficient reason for superseding a government, England might soon have warrant for setting aside the Emperor of Austria in Hungary, Victor Emanuel in Italy, or even his Holiness in the States of the Church. In all those countries robbers occasionally seize travelers and hold them for ransom. In all those countries when a district happens to be dangerous from the presence of brigands, tourists, unless protected by a Government escort, pursue their inspection of antiquities, or their search of the picturesque, at their own risk. The truth seems to be that Mr. Erskine, the English Minister in Greece, showed a deplorable lack of judgment in the affair of the brigands. From the Government the travelers had received assurance that the roads were safe, and hence the Government became responsible for the amount of the ransom demanded by the robbers. The amount demanded by them, two thousand pounds, seems small when the social rank and wealth of the travelers are considered. It ought to have been instantly paid, and the Greek Government called on to reimburse. Instead of taking this course, Mr. Erskine, perhaps afraid of personal liability, urged the Government to send troops in pursuit of the brigands, when they did exactly what they had threatened to do and what ought to have been anticipated. Should the Greek Government have refused to make good the ransom, probably a single one of the party for whom it was exacted, could have sustained the entire loss without much inconvenience. One of them was the son of an English duke, and a duke's income is usually large.

THE TARIFF AND EMIGRATION.

Mr. Wood, a leading manufacturer of Sheffield, England, in a letter to the *Daily Telegraph* of that city, gives a deplorable account of pauperism in England and Wales, stating that one out of every eighteen persons there are in the receipt of parochial relief. He says that since 1853 upwards of three millions of their people have emigrated, principally to extreme protective countries, where their labor has found a better reward and been the means of greater foreign productiveness. He adds significantly: "We have tried free trade so long, in the face of other protective producing countries, that it is almost time we protected ourselves." There can be no doubt that England's persistency in free trade is a great cause of the decrease in her manufacturing population, and is proportionately a source of prosperity here. If we abandon our protective policy by reducing our tariff to a low revenue standard, we would undoubtedly arrest the migration of British operatives hither, but they would still leave home, for Canada and Australia have both adopted the protective system, and thus become our competitors for British emigration.

By the death of Villemain on the 10th instant, announced in the cable dispaches Wednesday, France has lost another of its most distinguished men of letters. For we remember not how many years he has been the Secretary of the French Academy, a position which he owed to his eminence as a critic and his happy facility in extemporaneous expression. When very young he entered upon his public career as a professor in the faculty of literature, and his lectures in that department, with the lectures of Guizot on civilization, and those of Cyprien on metaphysics, were esteemed among the most important intellectual events of the Restoration. Of this course of lectures, we believe, only the portions relating to French literature in the middle ages and in the eighteenth century have been published. A French critic says that these lectures in their style combine the easy march of extemporary discourse with the precision, purity and elegance of elaborate composition, and that Villemain was the first to raise literary criticism to the level of history. Other celebrated works of this great writer are his *Life of* Cromwell, *Sketch of Christian Eloquence in the Fourth Century* and *Contemporary Recollections of History and Literature.* Villemain was also distinguished as a classical scholar and published translations of Cicero's *De Senectute* and *De Amicitia*. He was born in 1791, and hence was thirteen years older than Sainte-Beuve.

THE GRAIN CROP.

Since the developments made in the sale of cadetships by members of Congress, it would be interesting to know how many other offices of trust and emolument have been "in the consideration," by that innocent class of public functionaries, the members of Congress. The system which has grown up in American politics of late years, of giving to Congressmen the disposal of offices in their respective districts, is a monstrous evil which we would be glad to see abolished—it is a wrong from beginning to end—it found its origin in the demoralizing maxim that "to the victors belong the spoils," and it has culminated in most disastrous failure. Members of Congress were elected for the purpose of legislating—not for districts to take care of their interests in the representative branch of government—it was not intended that they should interfere with the Executive in the exercise of his appointing power. The fruits of this misdirection of political influence are visible in every direction. "Is he honest; is he capable?" is no longer the question—and now claimants to public appointments are required to refer to the fact that they have done, or what they will do in the nominating conventions which may possibly have to pass upon the eligibility of the Congressional candidate himself for re-election. It may be no money paid, but the bribery nevertheless exists in another form. Under this system of appointment there can be no other than a corrupt administration of affairs. It is, therefore, not to be wondered at, that in the Revenue department alone, from 1862 to 1869, the deficits have amounted to ten millions of dollars. It is worse a pity that Mr. Jenckes's civil service bill, which proposes to make character and intelligence the only recommendations to office, should be so lightly considered. Although perhaps not perfect, it is better than any other yet devised, and would go far to correct an evil which is equally subversive of public morals and the political welfare of our country.

The fallacy of increasing to an unnatural extent the growth of breadstuffs beyond our means of consumption, and entering into competition in the European markets with American and other great grain growing countries, has already been adverted to. Our agricultural interests, and the welfare of nations bear some proportion to our own means of consumption, and as these resources are developed, the growth and increase of our manufactures, and the consequent increase of the great interests should go hand-in-hand in the march of progress. While through the development of manufactures all our essential wants and even luxuries could be supplied, the agriculturist could also find profit in the increased consumption of the working population of the mills. This is the true American system, which would afford a home market for our products without the necessity of depending on foreign markets for our supplies. But non-producing commerce seeks adoptive ion of the system, and is willing to delude ourselves, by the creation of that which we need. Commerce in its greed of gain would parade in the garb of general prosperity, but if subservient to the *effete* and monopolizing policy of the Old World. To abandon Protection now would be to surrender our interests to the British. Great Britain has found to be a failure. Protection is the true American policy, whatever *ad captandum* fallacies of free-trading theorists may be presented. The practical workings of the system afford evidence of the fact that while manufactures increase the profits of agriculture, poverty is invariably the result of traffic in breadstuffs and raw material.

The experiment of legal suasion in effecting temperance reform has been fairly tested, and so far as an exclusive reliance on this mode of action is concerned, has proved abortive, and many bitter and disgusting animosities have been engendered in the attempt, by sanitary legislation, to force people against their desires or convictions to conform to the views of ultra temperance reformers. It, therefore, suggests a refusing to recur to the old Washingtonian system pursued in the early era of Temperance Reform, which was not without most salutary results. Vice President Colfax, in an article published in a late number of the *Independent*, after quoting some startling statistics, and deprecating the general apathy at present prevailing on the question of temperance reform, suggests a return to the old mode of personal effort and moral suasion and unremitting labor in subduing the monstrous evil of intemperance. The ruling principle of the old Washingtonian reform was to persuade rather than compel, and in his brief *resume* of the plan and purposes of that reform he exhibits, in a striking degree, its effectiveness and wonderful growth and expansion, which are peculiarly applicable to the present time. Mr. Colfax says:

> "In this great work (Washington Reform) lawyers and doctors, ministers and exhorters, teachers and statesmen, joined with the reformed on the common platform of the Pledge. And, before it spent its force, it had gathered into its folds, including nearly all the youth of both sexes, into its organization, for six months alone, not less than a hundred and fifty thousand were pledged in the State of Ohio alone. All that it did credit for in each State can be given. Its results eternity can only reveal. It was blessed as no other movement of the kind has been. Whether its persuasive character, its earnest sympathy with the unfortunate, its exhibitions of the power of kindness and inculcations of willing, hearty labor on all, gave it their strength, I do not attempt to argue. But the country long for another revival of the same character and power for good. And I believe it is ripe for it."

It is intimated in the New York *Tribune*, which calls for the signers to their memorial, that one-third of the "American ship owners" who are protesting against the revival of American commerce, are prepared, by Mr. Lynch's bill, are British subjects. The *Tribune* pertinently asks: "Are we to understand that, after British pirates have destroyed our commerce, British residents are striving to defeat the measures proposed for its revival?"

The provision of law relating to census taking which imposes a fine of $50 on persons refusing to answer questions put by the census taker, was probably from a thorough knowledge of human nature, more especially that kind which usually declines to commit itself on the question of age.

RAMIE, THE SUBSTITUTE FOR COTTON.

History of the Plant—Its Cultivation—Machinery for its Preparation.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Since my return from the great South-western Fair at New Orleans, I have had numerous inquiries in regard to this new textile plant. My dispatches to the press relating to it have been brief and not sufficiently explicit to comprehend the value of the staple.

Ramie is called by the botanist, Decaisne, *Boehmeria tenacissima.* It belongs to the order of *urticacea* or nettle family, and suborder of *urticea* or true nettles. This genus is confined to warm latitudes. There home variety found in Florida, and four different ones in China, Japan, Sumatra and Java. It is found in Cochin China and Japan as far north as thirty-six degrees of latitude, and as far south as ten degrees of latitude. It was first brought to European notice in 1844, by the celebrated French naturalist Jaume, a member of the Institute of France, who, under the auspices of the government, transferred plants from Java to the *Jardin Des Plantes* in Paris, but it did not succeed well on account of cold winters. They were then introduced into Mexico by the Belgian botanist, B. Roezl, where they were successfully cultivated, and from thence introduced into Louisiana in March, 1867, where they have grown, lived and increased in proportions exceeding the most sanguine expectations of the early friends of the enterprise.

The plains and rich alluvial lands of the Mississippi Valley requires similar preparation of the ground to that for the sugar cane, after its cultivation has been completed. It should be planted in drills, or hills in rows, so that when the stocks have grown up about two feet high they can be bent over and "layered and relayed," when they grow so thick as to extinguish and root out the weeds of everything else, and require no after cultivation. The plants grow from the roots at the root and cuttings, the former being regarded as the more certain, particularly in Louisiana. When cuttings are used they should be placed longitudinally in rows, previously ridged and ground well pulverized, and well manured or underdrained so much the better. The plant flourishes in almost any soil, but the use of fertilizers greatly facilitates early maturity. *Four crops a year can be cut from it*, and no cultivation is required after the first year. The fibre is stronger and finer than flax or cotton, and is worth more than double in Europe the best Sea Island cotton. When once planted it will ratoon and propagate itself without further cultivation for ten, fifty or twelve years.

The ramie has been thoroughly acclimated in Louisiana, and successfully grown as far North as Southern Illinois. It is not subject to or destroyed by the vermin or insects or diseases of field and plantation hood crops. In point of permanency and value of the fibre cuttings is equal in weight of dressed fibre to the average crop of Sea Island cotton; in other words, four times the quantity per acre, of fibre, when properly stained or cleaned, is superior to the best cotton, and can be equaled by no other. I enclose you samples as presented me by F. T. Phelps, who has eighty acres growing on his plantation at St. Bernard, near New Orleans, and are under obligations to a visit to the plantation, and to obtain an interview with General Beauregard. I have a handkerchief manufactured from the yarn, and the finest linen cambric I ever saw, and other fabrics that will not suffer in comparison with the finest linen cambric I ever saw, and other fabrics that will not suffer in comparison with the finest linen or cotton goods. But the plant in its natural state is not adapted to spinning. It makes a fibre quite soft and clean, nearly white, and is perfected by giving it a bath in an alkaline wash, which you will readily see in the enclosed samples. The fibre is then in a cloth show how much it resembles silk in its softness of touch and glossy look.

Another valuable property of the ramie is, it makes a good forage plant for horned cattle. M. Barbet de Jouy, of the Jardin Des Plantes, has invented a machine for cleaning the fibre. While it answers the purpose well, it is rather complicated and costly. He has since invented, however, as well as the five thousand pounds of ramie grass sent to Liverpool for special and British India, has stimulated a merican investment in the line, and the result is the present boom in the article. Indeed, I think, to meet public expectation. Emile Lefevre, Esq., the distinguished and prominent French journal at New Orleans, in a late number of the *Cincinnati Commercial*, Major Burke, of the *Bee's Review*, and the writer were invited to visit the plantation of Mr. Phelps. It is fully as simple as any ordinary plantation, farm or farm machine, and admirably adapted to the purpose. I design giving an illustration of this and other improvements in my next letter, and will only suppose the fact that while manufactures increase the profits of agriculture, poverty is invariably the result of traffic in breadstuffs and raw material.

H. Blaine.

OUR INDIAN POLICY.

Address to the American People—A National Convention Called to Meet at Cooper Institute, New York, May 18th.

To the American People:

In accordance with a resolution unanimously adopted by a public meeting of the citizens of New York, at the Cooper Institute, April 26th, 1870, the Executive and General Committees of the United States Indian Commission give notice that a Convention will be held May 18th instant, at the Cooper Institute, New York City, commencing at ten o'clock A. M., and continuing until the business for which it is convened is completed. We earnestly and cordially invite all persons throughout the country, who are desirous of reform in the administration of Indian affairs, of sustaining President Grant in his new and humane policy, of removing the enslaving ban of outlawry from the Indians, and of a final and complete settlement of this question upon the basis of law, equality, humanity and justice, to form auxiliary associations in their several localities as speedily as possible, and to meet with us on the 18th instant, by delegation or otherwise, to devise means for securing the object so dear to the heart of every true patriot in our land.

We are impelled to strenuously urge upon the people the necessity of such action, by the official assurance of the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, that there is imminent danger of general hostilities with the Indians all along the whole border. A war which would necessarily involve the loss of thousands of lives and millions of dollars. The grounds for this apprehension will be understood by the following extract from a communication of the Indian officials, dated March 1st, 1870, stating that "from our extreme northern boundary to the Mexican frontier, we receive complaints from all the Indian tribes of what they declare to be a flagrant breach on our part in carrying out the stipulations of treaties formally entered into with them, and redeeming the promises which, in their behalf, Indianola them to consent to the peaceful construction of railroads to the Pacific coast. Major General Stanley in Dakota that he is ashamed longer to appear in the presence of the chiefs of the Sioux, who inquire of him why we are not doing as we promised in 1867, and in their vigorous language aver that we are not to be trusted when telling of the benefits we intended to confer upon them."

Moreover, it is conceived that the Big Horn expedition involves much needless danger of collision, which must inevitably result in war. We are also reminded that a war under the circumstances will be regarded as dishonorable to the nation, and that the Indians only demand simple, even-handed Justice as a condition of a permanent peace.

General Harney, Sherman, Auger and Terry, U. S. A., Senator Henderson, Commissioner Taylor, General Sanborn and Chief Justice Spaul of the Peace Commission, in their report to the President, January 7th, 1869, say that "Among civilized men war usually springs from a sense of injustice. The best possible way, therefore, to avoid war is to do justice promptly. When we learn the same rule holds good with Indians, the chief difficulty is removed. But it is said 'our wars with them have been almost constant. Have we been uniformly unjust?' The answer is painfully true.

We believe there should be concert of action among those who desire to see justice done, and dissemination of information upon the subject of our Indian relations. We therefore repeat our invitation to the people to form auxiliary associations and unite with us for a better understanding of this great national question, and the duties incumbent upon us all in this crisis, as a Christian country.

For the Executive and General Committees of the United States Indian Commission.

Edward Cromwell, President.

Edward Cromwell, Secretary.
New York, May 9, 1870.

The cultivation of flax in Missouri is an industry which may be extended with profit. The Board of Agriculture, a publishing institution, have made an annual report, a copy of which is now upon our table. We present herewith some of the information it contains for the benefit of farmers. In 1869 the proportion of flax for several years past is thus shown:

Years.	Acres Sowed.	Bushels of seed.	Bushels of fibre.
1865	52,948	392,076	11,762,280
1866	101,290	751,264	18,728,760
1867	65,421	415,286	12,457,980
1868	47,719	245,991	7,379,730
1869	97,820	692,484	13,849,680
1870	97,820	620,092	18,602,760
Totals	415,391	2,749,782	82,782,410

There can be no question but that the utilization of flax straw by the establishment of flax bagging will be of great advantage to the farmer who has heretofore been producing flax for the seed alone, and burning the straw. At 700 to 1,000 pounds of flax tow can be produced from the straw of flax for each bushel of seed, it follows that more than $30 per acre can actually be gained by the flax producer which was lost before. We have, of the net gain, also to get the lint out of an acre's product of straw by the least possible expensive labor, and must be paid for out of the price obtained for the seed. The question is simply one of the increase—if his profit before when he burned his straw was anything like a paying profit, the gain now must be munificent.

The total number of National Banks excepting those in process of organization, by statement fourteen of these banks have failed to pay their depositors and fifty-four have surrendered their charters and retired their circulation. The National banking system was adopted in 1863, and has been in operation seven years. During this time there has not been a failure involving the loss of a single dollar to any depositor. Under it the United States have been blessed with a uniform currency, equally available in all parts of the country. In every respect the national bank notes are superior to the old State issues, which were so depreciated in value as to cause panics. The ponderous counterfeit and bank note detectors are now entirely dispensed with, and no one may be hanging in recollection of its convenience and losses consequent on the State Bank system would desire a return to it.

Victor Hugo has written a letter to Gen. Cluseret, in answer to one addressed to him by the General, conveying information that the Executive Committee of the Republic of France had appointed Gen. Cluseret their representative in the United States. In his letter Victor Hugo says:

> "Your mission is a fatherland. The great republic of Washington and of John Brown is a glory to the human race. It is the only power which has sovereign the government of the world. From the social point of view it is the only

Weekly Commercial.

WASHINGTON.

Reduction of Duty on Steel.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 11, 1870.

Capitol Movers Defeated.

The Capitol movers got badly defeated in the Senate this afternoon, if they ever really hoped to show any strength there. The pending propositions were to appropriate half a million dollars for beginning a new State Department in the square now occupied by the War and Navy Departments, and to authorize the extension of the Capitol grounds on the east and west at an estimated cost of four or five hundred thousand dollars. The first of these was carried by yeas 41, nays 15, those voting in the negative being Messrs. Casserly, Chandler, Cragin, Harlan, Harris, Howard, Howell, Kellogg, Morton, Pratt, Schurz, Sherman, Spencer, Sprague and Yates. Only part of these gentlemen can be spoken of as in favor of moving the capital, as several expressly declared they would vote against the amendment solely on the ground that it is not now best to begin a new State Department. Among those who voted in the affirmative were the following named Western Senators: Howe, Drummond, Drake, Ramsey, Norton, Thayer, Tipton, Cole, Conkling, Corbett, Hine and McDonald. The amendment enlarging the Capitol grounds was agreed to without a division. A bill for the completion of the gallery was approved by the Secretaries of State, War and Navy, as it is the object of the purpose to have all three of these branches of governmental service under one roof.

The Educational Bureau

had an unexpectedly hard fight in the Senate. The House had agreed to give Gen. Eaton, for next year, fourteen thousand five hundred dollars, while the Senate Committee on Appropriations recommended cutting the amount down to five thousand four hundred dollars. The Senate, after several hours debate on two or three successive days, finally overruled the committee, and by a vote of 38 to 19 concurred with the House, and so the Bureau, after the end of June, will have a Commissioner at a salary of three thousand dollars, one clerk at eighteen hundred dollars, one clerk at sixteen hundred, one clerk at fourteen hundred, one messenger at eight hundred and forty, stationery and fuel one hundred, library one thousand, getting up reports three thousand, contingencies twelve hundred and sixty, in all fourteen thousand five hundred dollars.

The Fight on the Northern Pacific Bill.

Another attempt was made to force the Northern Pacific Railroad bill through the House this morning. The Republicans who opposed it yesterday had a consultation before the session opened, and agreed to stand together until they could get a friend of the bill to consider amendments. They demanded that Orth should be allowed to make amendments, occupying fifteen minutes when he announced that all those who opposed the bill as it stood would have the bill referred, so that amendments in the interests of settlers and of the Government might be considered. The latter agreement was seen to induce the House to refuse a third reading of the bill, and it was then settled that no more amendments, to the Pacific Railroad Committee.

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The Freedmen's Bureau investigation was continued to-day. The session was chiefly occupied in submitting the official records called for by the prosecution in support of several of the charges.

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EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

High Court of Justice Convoked.

PARIS, May 5.—The *Journal Officiel* contains a decree convoking the High Court of Justice for the trial of those recently arrested for implication in the plot against the Emperor. Long before the issuance of this decree M. Oliver demonstrated the existence of a revolutionary party, having for its aim the establishment of a democratic and social republic. He weaves a web of misrepresentation, systematic outrage, calumny, enmities and assassinations. New liberties, so far from appeasing, increase its frenzy. It sees in them only facilities for increased organization and extension of its influence. Its objects and purposes are scarcely concealed in its assemblies and in the columns of the journals which follow its fortunes. He exposes its designs, and declares himself in possession of evidence sufficient to prove criminal attempt and conspiracy. He reproduces parts of a speech in which he announced the existence of the party and told its number. The Government hoped kindness and patience would suffice to conquer passions which had their rise in other times, but he is forced to believe that energetic repression is the only means through which to re-establish social peace and respect for law without which the inauguration of free institutions would be a fool-hardy step. Since an appeal to the people had already been decreed, his first instruction was to delay this trial in order that involuntary evidence might not even an electioneering manoeuvre; but the revolutionists have sought to sweep away by one crime the reigning sovereign and the constitution, which would be to destroy with a sure blow the state itself. And they have even begun to execute their purposes before the eighth of May. Their plans have for a long time been prepared. Under these circumstances it is our duty to publicly surrender them to justice. The number inculpated, the nature and gravity of the affair, and the exigencies of public order, demand the exercise of the powers of the High Court in the trial and judgment of the cause.

Then follows a report of the Procureur General, showing that in their public assemblies ardent revolutionists had come together to prepare insurrection and attempts against the Emperor. The report gives details of the conspiracy of February, and accuses the conspirators of having participated in the enemies which follows if the attempt succeeded; and of having designed to assassinate the Emperor by an explosion of nitro-glycerine. The report publishes, for the purpose of proving the complicity of the International Association of Workingmen, a letter from Vollin, President of that society, in which he says the association should concert for united action in case of an outbreak.

The report then passes to the new conspiracy, and declares that the confession of Beaury shows that he was in collusion with Gustave Flourens in a plot to assassinate the Emperor. A letter is published from Flourens to Beaury, wherein the question of the attempt is discussed, and a letter from Beaury to Baillot, a friend of Flourens, in which he writes him to assist at the amputations in the Ecole de Rivoli, where there are likely to be wounded men on the 23rd of April, before the house of the accused tour o'clock. Another letter from Flourens, sends the house of Baillot, and dated April 19, speaks likewise of that affair.

The report then gives an account of the discovery of bombs, and states that there might be another foundry where bombs were manufactured. The report announces the arrest of Baillot.

Procureur-General Grandu Perret publishes in the *Journal Officiel* letters containing evidence of the existence of a conspiracy. Among them is the following from Gustave Flourens, which was found on Beury when arrested here:

MY DEAR FRIEND:—I have duly received your last letters. I regret that you have addressed them by this way, and not through Mr. Bradley, of the New York *Herald*, No. 13 Pall Mall, London, enclosed in an envelope with my christian name, but I hope we shall not have to wait long, and very soon we shall see each other again in Paris, when all will have ended well. You should have received my letter of the 19th, addressed to Fleury, in which there is one for my friend of the bank. If he has duly received it, and if this friend has handed to you the banknotes, the sum of 400 francs, burn the enclosed letter for him, and there is an end of it. If not, send it to him and act immediately the 400 francs are received. There is not a moment to lose. The man with the patent might go into the country and all will be delayed, but you will succeed. I reckon upon you and your faithful friends. Only go out at night or in cab. Take care of the money, and don't be imprudent. Do not fail. If possible I shall be very soon at Paris to assist you. Once more I repeat what I have already said to you, either you credit not to have had anything to do with it, or you must be successful.—[Signed] GUSTAVE.

The Vote on the Plebiscitum.

PARIS, May 11.—The following official returns have been received from some of the principal cities:—Algeria—Yes, 111,203; no, 106,376. Nantes—Yes, 23,206; no, 12,885. Marseilles—Yes, 18,412; no, 31,829. Lille—Yes, 65,367; no, 17,893. Bordeaux—Yes, 30,127; no, 18,489. Toulouse—Yes, 9,112; no, 12,534.

The Excitement in Paris.

PARIS, May 11—9 P. M.—The streets were crowded last night, but no trouble occurred. The excitement is abating. Out of the army vote of 40,000, 5,000 voted no.

Troubles occurred yesterday and last night at Havre. The troops paraded the streets, and the police made many arrests. Several fights are reported to have taken place. Some of the rioters were wounded, but none killed.

The troubles throughout the city last night were more serious than anticipated. The authorities were forced to make a display of the military to restore order in the disturbed portions of the city. The barricades in the Belleville district were stubbornly defended, though subsequently carried by the soldiers at the head of the battalion. There were several kill ed and wounded on both sides. During the night other engagements occurred, and a number of soldiers, policemen and citizens were killed.

PARIS, Midnight, May 11.—The troops occupied the Place Chateau D'Eau, where the square Prince Eugene is situated. Many groups of spectators throng the boulevard, but a heavy rain is falling and prevents any dangerous increase of numbers. Belleville and Faubourg Du Temple are held by the military, and no one was allowed to pass the guards in quarters. Up to this hour tranquility is not disturbed.

Reception at Buckingham Palace.

The Queen holds a reception at Buckingham Palace to-day. Mrs. James Lawrence, Miss Eleanor Motley, Mrs. Motley, Mrs. Jay and Mrs. Henry G. Russell, all Americans, will be present.

The "Times" Indignant.

The press in general, but particularly the *Times*, is indignant at the failure of the Government to protect Johnson, the Manchester bullion, against the outrages of the trades' organizations.

The Berlin Bourse and American Securities.

BERLIN, May 11.—In consequence of the recent action of the Berlin Bourse in warning the public against American securities, much inconvenience and trouble continues among dealers, and the governing committees are severely censured for their lack of prudence and discrimination. The subject has assumed such important bearings in its effect upon the financial relations existing between the two countries, that United States Minister Bancroft has seen fit to make a diplomatic representation of the matter to the Prussian government.

AN AWFUL DEATH

Three Men Suffocated in a Privy Vault.

Ormsby Borough the Scene of the Accident—Particulars of the Sad Affair.

About six o'clock Wednesday evening a sad and most lamentable accident occurred in Ormsby borough, resulting in the instantaneous death of three men, the almost fatal injury of a fourth, and the slight injury of a fifth.

On learning of the accident our reporter visited Ormsby borough, but the crowd of anxious spectators was so great and the excitement so intense, that it was with great difficulty anything definite could be obtained. The facts as far as he gleaned them are about as follows, though as will be observed, a statement from a gentleman residing near the scene of the accident differs somewhat from his.

Matthew Wilhelm, a German residing on Carson street, Ormsby borough, about a square above the car station of the Birmingham Passenger Railway, was engaged during the day, with his son and a man named James Mooney, sticking a well on his premises, adjoining an old privy vault, which had become nearly filled. The hole had been sunk to a depth of perhaps twenty feet, was curbed with stone and wooden curbing, and to all appearances was perfectly secure.

Shortly before six o'clock the elder Wilhelm, his son and Mooney were at the bottom of the hole, when suddenly the earth between the old privy and the hole in which they stood gave way, and the curbing, it was broken, and the contents of the privy vault rushed in upon them. It is supposed they were overcome by the foul air, and fell forward. A man named Richard Mackey was standing on a ladder about half way down the hole when the break occurred. He was also overcome with the foul air, and a portion of the filth fell upon him, but with his head and shoulders were above water, however, and sustained life. At last accounts he was hopefully taken out and removed to Wilhelm's house, a portion of which he and his family occupied. Dr. Rahauser was immediately called, and although Mackey was apparently dead, the Doctor set to work, and after about an hour restored consciousness, and by a vote of 38 to 19 concurred with the House, and so the Bureau, after the end of June, will have a Commissioner at a salary of three thousand dollars, one clerk at eighteen hundred, one clerk at sixteen hundred, one clerk at fourteen hundred, one messenger at eight hundred and forty, stationery and fuel one hundred, library one thousand, getting up reports three thousand, contingencies twelve hundred and sixty, in all fourteen thousand five hundred dollars.

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PERSONAL.

Dr. Beckers, who is implicated in the Rothschild robbery, and is kept under arrest at his own house on account of severe illness, is in receipt of a pension from Louis Napoleon, for having been successful in his treatment of the Prince Imperial during the latter's illness. The Emperor is as unlucky with his physicians as with his cousins.

On the occasion of the recent visit of General William Baker, Chief of the Anglo-Indian telegraphs, to the Indo-European Telegraph Company in London, dispatches between the latter city and Teheran, Persia, were exchanged in one minute by the new apparatus invented by Siemens & Halske, and between London and Calcutta in 28 minutes by the old Morse apparatus.

M. Dubarle, a Judge of the Paris Court of Appeals, has just died from an extraordinary cause. A few weeks ago, being in the country at Pompeuse, where he has property, he attended the funeral of the mayor, and approached the brink of the grave to make an oration over the coffin. But emanations from the coffin of the mayor's wife, who had been buried some months before, so affected the Judge that he fell down in a fainting fit. He never thoroughly recovered, and has now died from what is called "cadaveroua poisoning."

The commemoration in honor of Raphael was recently celebrated with great pomp in his native town Urbino, deputations from all parts of Italy being present. The ceremony was overshadowed by the sudden death of Tullio Dandolo, who was sent by the congress to deposit on Pantheon at Rome, to present to the committee a mould of Raphael's skull.

Wendell Phillips, at the introduction of Senator Sumner to the Boston audience on Tuesday evening, as published them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Closing.
U. S. Bonds '81	117	117	117
U. S. Bonds '62	112¾	112¾	113
U. S. Bonds '64	111¾	111¾	111¾
U. S. Bonds '65	111¾	112	112
U. S. Bonds '65, '67	113¾	113¾	113¾
U. S. Bonds '68	114¾	114¾	114¾
U. S. Bonds 10-40s	108¾	108¾	108¾
10-40s	108¾	108¾	108¾
Gold	113¾	113¾	113¾

The *Worlds* is a "bull" with the longest horns. It says: The influx of currency from the South-ern States, owing to the growing wealth of that section, and the high price realized for the present crop of cotton, together with the $40,000,000 currency likely to be disbursed by the government in June for the purchase of government bonds, are, so far as the New York money market is concerned, the causes of an inflation of our currency. That this influx of currency must result in a season of unbridled speculation on the New York Stock Exchange is almost inevitable, ever since 1864 there are many elements favorable for Wall street speculations been congregated together in this city. General business is quiet, and merchants have nothing to do, and are crowding to the banks. With the prices of leading railway stocks advancing every week, and with the prospect of their reaching the highest prices ever known, and with the many new temptations are very great for outsiders to take a turn in the stock market. The last fortnight has brought to many cities a freshet from the outside public in other cities besides New York.

The basis of a season of high speculative excitement this summer is more solid than any which has preceded it. The fact that there is the important item of an actual increase of currency in the hands of the people of the Western States, the bulk of which is not yet marketed, and which will not bring ago let's per bush. in Chicago, has now advanced 2c. This advance of one-half in the value of grain gives a large portion of real wealth to the Western States. It also adds materially to the value of all property. The last section by the increased traffic receipts which must result from the higher price of grain, and from the large crops now growing in Eastern markets. If the price of grain had not advanced, and the crops were not promised for the future, then the holders of grain could not have forwarded the crop to the East, as they could not have obtained gold to pay for shipping out the basis of wheat at 75c currency in Chicago.

It takes exceptions to the "bear" tone of the *Herald*, whose article we published this morning. The orders from the West to buy Lake Shore have been the cause of the rise, and against the efforts of the "bulls" as well as the "bears" to force its price down wards. A morning journal seems to have been singularly content with the condition of the money and stock market, and has published the following curious article, which works, by a singular coincidence, directly into the hands of the "bull" clique in the Lake Shore. Also it is read a short interest in it.

Lake Shore is now saddled upon the public at the present high prices. The clique have been selling for a week past. They expect to bag each from fifty to one hundred thousand *at least ten to fifteen below par*. Something will turn up to assist this scheme.

The present condition of affairs shows a most singular ignorance of affairs in Wall street. The "outsiders" have been selling short in large numbers for a week, but they have now the contrary add a considerable big amount of stock they are carrying, and that, too, at very high prices. What the "bulls" cliques want is to create a short interest. The morning journals's money article saying that Lake Shore will decline 20 to 30 per cent, and precisely what the "bull" cliques want the article to say. It is the way to create a short interest. The morning journal's money article should publish a list of those who have been selling Lake Shore "short" at present prices are certain to lose money. Those who are now buying it to make money or not depends on whether they or the cliques are enabled to unload on the public at a profit. It is a considerable. The Lake Shore Company has earned 8 per cent. the last year, and pays 6 per cent, beyond a contingency, so that the investment of funds at par is safe.

The following are the closing prices from dispatches received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock Rooms, Apollo Building, No. 80 Fourth avenue, shows the prices of Hoge & Moore's Petroleum Stocks and the quotations of the New York Boards during the day:

	10 30	11 30	12 30	1 30	3 30
	May 11, 1870.				
New York Central	107	107	107	107	107
New Jersey Central	108	108	108	108	108
Erie	23	23	24	23½	23½
Harlem	141	141½	141½	141½	141½
Reading	102¾	103	103¼	103	103
Michigan Central	134	134	134	134	134
Michigan Southern	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½
Cleveland and Pittsburgh	97	97	97	97	97
Do preferred	98	98	98	98	98
Rock Island	103	103	103	103	103
St. Paul	36½	36½	36½	36½	36½
St. Paul preferred	63½	63½	63½	63½	63½
Toledo and Wabash	50½	50½	50½	50½	50½
Toledo and Wabash pref.	70	70	70	70	70
Fort Wayne	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
Ohio and Mississippi	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½
Ohio and Mississippi pref.	70	70	70	70	70
Pacific Mail	42½	42½	42½	42½	42½
Adams Express	66½	66½	66½	66½	66½
Wells, Fargo & Co. Express	65½	65½	65½	65½	65½
American M. U. Ex	47½	47½	47½	47½	47½
United States Express	48	48	48	48	48
Quicksilver	113	113½	113½	113½	113½

A comparison between yesterday's and today's closing quotations shows the following changes:

	Open.	Close.	Adv.	Dec.
N. Y. Central	106¾	107	¼	
N. J. Central	108	108		
Erie	23½	23½		
Harlem	141½	140½		1
Reading	103¼	103		¼
Michigan Southern	100½	100½		
Michigan Central	134	134		
Illinois Central	142	142		
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	96½	97	½	
Cleveland & Pittsburgh pref.	98	98		
Fort Wayne	94½	94½		
Rock Island	103	103		
Pacific Mail	42½	42½		
Ohio & Mississippi	30½	30½		
Ohio & Mississippi pref.	70	70		
Toledo & Wabash	50½	50½		
Toledo & Wabash pref.	70	70		
Wells, Fargo & Co. Express	65½	65½		
Adams Express	66½	66½		
United States Express	48	48		
Quicksilver	113	113½	½	

General Fremont is recovering from an illness of several days.

Rev. Dr. Tyng is at present in the West. On Sunday last his pulpit at St. George's, New York, was filled in the morning by Rev. Morris A. Tyng, and in the afternoon by Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, Jr.

Samuel Townsend is the gentleman who organized the white man's party in Delaware; and, according to his political dictionary, there are only twenty-five men in the State who are not suspiciously dark.

Dr. Francis Dieber has accepted the important place of translator to the Mexican Claims commission. His profound knowledge of international, and international, makes his acceptance a matter of congratulation to suitors before the Commission.

J. M. Doherty, better known as "Paddy Pungent," committed suicide at San Francisco recently. He was a native of Ireland, and was a member of a "body" of Mexican Rangers, issued about five years ago. Not getting a large revenue from it he had eked out a miserable existence by the sale of corn cob pipe frames. He has a child in the Protestant Orphan Asylum, and left to that institution what little property he had, in the shape of pipe moulds, etc. He wrote a sale of the 100 bibs Jenkins & Lily mills to Hoge & Moore, at 5½c, and the following are rates are as follows: Choice winter wheat in bbls, $5 25 to $5 50; choice white spring flour in bbls, $5 75 sacks; white spring flour $5 25 in bbls, and $5 in sacks; Sipps Valley $6 in bbls, $5 75 in sacks; Gem of the West $5 75; Andrews choice $6 25 p bbl, and 25c off in sacks. The above prices are for delivered in Boston; extra in bbls $6 00; in sacks $6 25; extra winter wheat in barrels $5 50 in sacks $5 75; family winter wheat, in barrels $5 00; in sacks $5 50; superfine winter wheat, in barrels $4 75; in sacks $5 00; Ohio spring wheat, in barrels $4 75; in sacks $5 00; Two Stars, blue brands, $5 00 in sacks $5 40; Winfred Mills extra, $4 75 in barrels.

PITTSBURGH OIL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 11, 1870. }

BUSINESS—The market opened heavy. Prices soon gave way, however, and buyers of crude entered the market and took hold freely at the decline. Refined was quiet at present but will rally called out a large and highly intelligent audience."

Ecclesiastical electioneering and wire-pulling has recently been the sensation of San Francisco. Rev. Mr. Wyatt, of Trinity Church, being on a visit to the East, his place was so well supplied that an effort was made and an attempt was made to install the latter permanently. A determined opposition was at once contested on the issue. The Birdsell party was carried by a majority of 25,000 votes, and Wyatt's return. In St. James Church, finances have been the bone of contention, the prosecutor having to sue for $2,000 of back salary.

The marriage of General J. C. Kelton, A. A. G., formerly on duty at the War Department, with Miss Josephine P. Campbell, daughter of Hon. W. S. Campbell, United States Consular Dresden, Saxony, was celebrated in that city in the Dutch Reformed Church, on the 22nd ult. The ceremony was conducted in style of great magnificence, the church being crowded with the elite of the city. After the ceremony a reception was held at the Consulate, after which the bridal party left Dresden for a tour through Northern Europe. Gen. Kelton will return to Washington about the middle of June.

It is reported that Mr. Feehter has entered into an arrangement with Mr. Hoyt to pipe five years at a weekly salary of $200. This includes the salary of Miss Leclercq. It is said to be Mr. Selwyn's intention to make a starring tour.

A Commander in the British Navy, writing to the London *Times*, says of the Spanish navy: "The principal charges against the ruler of Paraguay were that he was unscrupulous, that he acted from selfish motives, and that he was a coward. He thinks the first may be admitted; but with respect to the others, so long as there was hope for Paraguay he took care of himself, knowing that if he fell the cause was lost; and when there was no more hope, his last act and heroic death gave those calumnies the most complete and thorough refutation; and proved that with all his faults, and what was known of them, he had few enemies to their cost knew him to be; what many who had come in contact with him, and among others a distinguished American admiral considered him to be, and what, I feel sure, history will admit him to have been—a great man."

The Rev. S. B. Halliday, for many years Superintendent of the New York Five Points House of Industry, has been unanimously chosen, at Mr. Beecher's request, by a vote of the congregation of Plymouth Church, to assist the Rev. Dr. Beecher in his ministrations.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 11, 1870.

Some of the banks report a greater supply of loanable means, and a readiness to discount a reasonable amount of good paper, but there is no plethora of money at this point at present. The great volume of the currency of the country seems to rest in New York, where they are puzzled to know how to manage. National bank bills have increased so enormously that a plan has been suggested of depositing to the extent of ten millions of these notes in one of the banks there as a basis for clearing house certificates. This plan is said to be popular with the majority of bank officers. If the national bank notes were sent home for redemption, they would be returned to the city in the course of a few days. It is suggested that the notes shall be counted, sealed in packages of $5,000 each by a committee, with the name of the bank and amount on the package. That these packages shall be deposited in the Bank of America for account of and at the risk of the depositing banks, thus relieving the Bank of America from all responsibility in the matter. The Bank of America to issue its certificates for the same, to be used for clearing house purposes. In the fall of the year the certificates will be cancelled and the notes returned to the depositing banks, to be used in moving the crops.

Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Closing.
U. S. Bonds '81	117	117	117
U. S. Bonds '62	112¾	112¾	113
U. S. Bonds '64	111¾	111¾	111¾
U. S. Bonds '65	111¾	112	112
U. S. Bonds '65, '67	113¾	113¾	113¾
U. S. Bonds '68	114¾	114¾	114¾
U. S. Bonds 10-40s	108¾	108¾	108¾
10-40s	108¾	108¾	108¾
Gold	113¾	113¾	113¾

The *Worlds* is a "bull" with the longest horns. It says: The influx of currency from the South-ern States, owing to the growing wealth of that section, and the high price realized for the present crop of cotton, together with the $40,000,000 currency likely to be disbursed by the government in June for the purchase of government bonds, are, so far as the New York money market is concerned, the causes of an inflation of our currency. That this influx of currency must result in a season of unbridled speculation on the New York Stock Exchange is almost inevitable, ever since 1864 there are many elements favorable for Wall street speculations been congregated together in this city. General business is quiet, and merchants have nothing to do, and are crowding to the banks. With the prices of leading railway stocks advancing every week, and with the prospect of their reaching the highest prices ever known, and with the many new temptations are very great for outsiders to take a turn in the stock market. The last fortnight has brought to many cities a freshet from the outside public in other cities besides New York.

The basis of a season of high speculative excitement this summer is more solid than any which has preceded it. The fact that there is the important item of an actual increase of currency in the hands of the people of the Western States, the bulk of which is not yet marketed, and which will not bring ago let's per bush. in Chicago, has now advanced 2c. This advance of one-half in the value of grain gives a large portion of real wealth to the Western States. It also adds materially to the value of all property. The last section by the increased traffic receipts which must result from the higher price of grain, and from the large crops now growing in Eastern markets. If the price of grain had not advanced, and the crops were not promised for the future, then the holders of grain could not have forwarded the crop to the East, as they could not have obtained gold to pay for shipping out the basis of wheat at 75c currency in Chicago.

It takes exceptions to the "bear" tone of the *Herald*, whose article we published this morning. The orders from the West to buy Lake Shore have been the cause of the rise, and against the efforts of the "bulls" as well as the "bears" to force its price down wards. A morning journal seems to have been singularly content with the condition of the money and stock market, and has published the following curious article, which works, by a singular coincidence, directly into the hands of the "bull" clique in the Lake Shore. Also it is read a short interest in it.

Lake Shore is now saddled upon the public at the present high prices. The clique have been selling for a week past. They expect to bag each from fifty to one hundred thousand *at least ten to fifteen below par*. Something will turn up to assist this scheme.

The present condition of affairs shows a most singular ignorance of affairs in Wall street. The "outsiders" have been selling short in large numbers for a week, but they have now the contrary add a considerable big amount of stock they are carrying, and that, too, at very high prices. What the "bull" cliques want is to create a short interest. The morning journal's money article saying that Lake Shore will decline 20 to 30 per cent, and precisely what the "bull" cliques want the article to say. It is the way to create a short interest. The morning journal's money article should publish a list of those who have been selling Lake Shore "short" at present prices are certain to lose money. Those who are now buying it to make money or not depends on whether they or the cliques are enabled to unload on the public at a profit. It is a considerable. The Lake Shore Company has earned 8 per cent. the last year, and pays 6 per cent, beyond a contingency, so that the investment of funds at par is safe.

The following are the closing prices from dispatches received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock Rooms, Apollo Building, No. 80 Fourth avenue, shows the prices of Hoge & Moore's Petroleum Stocks and the quotations of the New York Boards during the day:

	10 30	11 30	12 30	1 30	3 30
	May 11, 1870.				
New York Central	107	107	107	107	107
New Jersey Central	108	108	108	108	108
Erie	23	23	24	23½	23½
Harlem	141	141½	141½	141½	141½
Reading	102¾	103	103¼	103	103
Michigan Central	134	134	134	134	134
Michigan Southern	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½
Cleveland and Pittsburgh	97	97	97	97	97
Do preferred	98	98	98	98	98
Rock Island	103	103	103	103	103
St. Paul	36½	36½	36½	36½	36½
St. Paul preferred	63½	63½	63½	63½	63½
Toledo and Wabash	50½	50½	50½	50½	50½
Toledo and Wabash pref.	70	70	70	70	70
Fort Wayne	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
Ohio and Mississippi	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½
Ohio and Mississippi pref.	70	70	70	70	70
Pacific Mail	42½	42½	42½	42½	42½
Adams Express	66½	66½	66½	66½	66½
Wells, Fargo & Co. Express	65½	65½	65½	65½	65½
American M. U. Ex	47½	47½	47½	47½	47½
U. S. Express	48	48	48	48	48

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY EVENING, May 11, 1870. }

BUSINESS.—There is nothing new or very important to report in regard to the leading articles. Flour continues dull, and prices rule to a moderate extent, although trade was by no means active; still there was more than an average business doing for the season. The weather continues unfavorable, with occasional showers. We have a fine stage of water. Coal boatmen are busily employed in getting their tows of coal off to the lower market. The present week will see many fleets of them, three millions of bushels—being somewhat unusual for the first half of May. The following are the receipts of the leading articles of produce for the past twenty-four hours. To be found useful for reference:

	Last Week.	This Week
Flour, bbls	577	270
Apples, bbls	900	885
Butter, lbs	106	150
Corn, sacks	2,789	2,500
Wheat, sacks	2,043	1,840
Barley, sacks	2,744	1,789
Rye, sacks	1,456	1,002
Oats, sacks	5,907	5,513
Potatoes, bbls	392	220
Bulk meats, lbs	000	000

The following are the wholesale prices unless otherwise noted:

ASHES—The market remains steady but not very active. Pearls have sold more freely for something. We quote as follows: Soda ashes, 4½c; Pearls, 7½c. The prices are for delivered parties.

We take from the Jackson *Herald* the following report of the sales of pig iron returned by the furnaces of Jackson county for the quarter ending March 31st, 1870.

Furnace.	Proprietor.	Tons.
Buckeye Furnace	Gilchrist & Co	1,500
Cambria	Cambria Iron Co	15,250
Clinton	Rep.	5,000
Jefferson	Jefferson Iron Co	27,170
Liberty	Liberty Iron Co	16,650
Latrobe	Latrobe Iron Co	13,357
Keystone	Keystone Iron Co	15,000
Madison	Madison Iron Co	5,057
Monroe	Monroe Iron Co	10,286
Rathbone	Rathbone Iron Co	12,246
Star	Star Iron Co	14,340
Union	Union Iron Co	16,859
Limestone (no report.)		
Total sales		2,311,417

Portsmouth Iron Markets.

[From the Portsmouth Republican.]

The Iron interests are rather under a cloud at present. The uncertainty of the tariff bill, or rather the probability that the duty will be reduced to $25 per ton has had the effect of unsettling the market. Most of the furnaces are still out of blast, and receipts are light, and sales and shipments also light. We many of the Mill not blast.....8,000 tons
Foundry hot blast.....40,000 "
Stone Coal.....36,938 "

IRONTON.

The conditions of the pig iron market is still decidedly firm, and the prospects anything but cheerful. The rates are unsettled and many holders are so panicky that prices have, in several instances, fallen far below market quotations.

There is considerable coming forward from the furnaces, which moved forward at once.

We continue former quotations:
No. 1 cold blast, car wheel.....$00@00
Mill hot blast.....28@30
Foundry hot blast.....40@42
Stone Coal.....36@38

New York Iron Market.

NEW YORK, May 5.—The demand for Scotch pig has partially subsided, but as the supply is only about equal to the trade requirements, prices are supported; we have only to notice a sale of 500 tons Glengarnock from yard at $30 4. American meets with very little inquiry, but prices are unchanged; we quote nominally $33@34 for No. 1; $31@32 for No. 2, and forge $28@30. There has been a little better demand for new rails, and the market is steady at our quotations; the sales are 1,000 tons 56 ℔ Kirkaldi, and 1,000 do 56 ℔ American, on private terms. Bar from store continues dull, but firm at our quotations. The strike at the mills, at and about Philadelphia, has produced a firmer feeling in bar. Sweden bar is extremely scarce, and no assortment can be made up.

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } SATURDAY, May 7, 1870. }

Closing Markets—Cattle.

The market was fairly active since Wednesday, but the run was light, and the prices sustained fair. The total number of cars of live stock received into the Central Yards for the week, as furnished by Mr. Murphy, of the Supply Office, was as follows:

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Hogs.	Horses.	Totals.
Sunday		18			29
Monday	26	22	4	7	59
Tuesday	15	53	8	4	80
Wednesday	65	11	17	4	97
Thursday	30	8	25	4	67
Friday	9	5	13	4	31
Saturday		1	13		14

The following is the number shipped to Eastern markets during the week ending to-day, as taken from the records in the office of Mr. Mitchell, of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company:

Seller.	Buyer.	Horses Cattle.	Sheep.	Hogs.	Tls.
Philadelphia	10	24	28		52
New York	11	114	36	65	225
Baltimore				13

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1870.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty, per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

INTERNAL REVENUE LAWS—WILL THEY BE MODIFIED?

Information comes to us from Washington of a strong and growing feeling in both Houses of Congress in favor of a modification of the Internal Revenue Laws in several important particulars. The income tax has become almost odious. It has ceased to be, if ever it was, what it was designed to be, a tax on wealth. Somehow it is made to appear that many persons of large property and reputed wealth have no income. How they manage to live and carry the burden of their property does *not* appear. Salaried persons, mechanics, professional and literary men, whose earnings exceed $1,000 per annum pretty generally pay the tax. It is intimated that the Government fails to get more than one-tenth of the sum which this source of revenue ought to yield. Practically the tax has become a tax on *industry*, and the law imposing it, however otherwise intended, in its actual operation contravenes the long recognized and just rule of taxation, that taxes should be imposed chiefly on wealth and luxuries.

Many members of Congress have complaints to make of the oppressive operation of the laws imposing taxes on distilled spirits in the cases of their own constituents. It is said that prosecutions are instituted for technical and trifling matters, involving no fraud or intention to violate the law. Honorable Senators and members are compelled to spend much of their valuable time at the office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, trying so get cases compromised, which vigilant officials had brought into Court apparently for no other purpose than to show that they were vigilant and efficient. Those who understand the subject best, think that the laws need simplification. There are to much machinery and too many officers employed in the collection of the internal revenue. The system is needlessly expensive. Onerous restrictions are imposed on the trade to prevent fraud, where fraud is impossible. The notion is becoming prevalent, we are informed, that whatever tax Congress in their wisdom think distilled spirits should pay, ought to be paid at the distillery or distillery warehouse, leaving the article entirely free after it has been put on the market. As the law now stands, distilled spirits are to be ganged and stamped as often as they are changed from barrel to barrel, or mixed or compounded in the same barrel. Nearly all the revenue derived from dealers in distilled spirits, is eaten up in paying officers who might be dispensed with. Nearly all the prosecutions for fines, penalties and forfeitures are for acts done by, or omissions or neglect of mere dealers in spirits, on which the tax has been already paid. It is proposed, we understand, to increase the special taxes of wholesale dealers and rectifiers, and to relieve this class of persons from all other restrictions. This would simplify the system and reduce the number of revenue officers. The Government would probably get as much tax, and an end would be put to vexatious, and sometimes oppressive prosecutions, where no fraud was meditated, or even possible.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has little faith in informers, and the public has as little. Men whose sense of public justice is so torpid as to require the stimulative of large rewards to bring it into activity, are not likely to give much valuable aid to the administration of the law. There is reason to believe that many persons of this class have for their principal business that of black-mailing. Others are so eager in the pursuit of "moieties" that it is not safe to rely on them as witnesses. We are told that revenue officers and their subordinates have in times past realized large sums in the shape of "moieties." Let an end be put to this business at once. Informers have been odious from the beginning of the world, just because their motives are suspicious. No man can be honest who requires the incentive of a reward to urge him to the discharge of a duty. We can conceive of nothing likely to have a more corrupting influence on the revenue service than to allow public officers to become informers. There would be no safety for the citizen, and the administration of the law itself would cease to command public respect.

On the whole we think it probable that the internal revenue laws will be modified at the present session of Congress in the above and other particulars, and let us add, with advantage to the public service.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

Few, probably, of those most fully satisfied of the necessity of reform in the civil service, and most anxious to see the present system changed, have indulged very sanguine hopes of early Congressional action on the subject. To many of them the support given to Mr. JENCKES's bill by the present House of Representatives is, no doubt, a surprise. In an important sense, the interests, or at least the feelings of many of the members are enlisted in favor of the existing system, and with the friends of reform it has always been a decided impression that improvement was to be expected only from a Congress elected for and pledged to its support. As to the real sentiments of the people in regard to it we have no doubt. Certainly Mr. JENCKES said nothing extravagant when, a few days ago, he expressed the belief that if two hundred and and twenty-eight men were drawn by lot from among the people of the United States, there would be found fewer opposed to his measure than were to be found among the members of the House. But even of our actual representatives the best heads are unequivocally and without reservation on the side of reform—and, on a motion to lay Mr. JENCKES's bill on the table, there were one hundred and four nays to forty-three yeas. In view of the almost unanimous voice of the Press of the country in favor of reform, the present Congress can hardly doubt the will of the people to have some change for the better, and we may now feel sure that either Mr. JENCKES's bill, or another embodying its essential features, will be adopted before very long.

In the debate on the bill which took place in the House of Representatives last week, the opponents of civil service reform made, we suppose, the best show of argument of which they were capable. One member contended against the bill as removing the civil service farther away from the control of the people. To persons who look candidly at the actual relations between the people and the service this argument has little force. In no sense can the people at present be truly said to have any control of it, nor can it be hoped that there is any such distribution of minor government posts among the voters of the country as is adapted to inspire a feeling of personal interest in the mode. On the contrary, it is notorious, as Mr. JENCKES remarked, that personal or political influence regulates the assignment of the offices. Without such specific influence, it is many years since any person in the country was foolish enough to hope to obtain an official position, however insignificant, under the Government of the United States. No merit, whether in the way of general character, or of peculiar fitness for the place sought for, has been sufficient to secure one of these places, apart from the fact or the accident of connection with persons capable of exerting political influence. Hence the utmost inequality in the distribution of the minor offices, and hence also the prevalent feeling among the most numerous and surely a very respectable portion of the citizens, that in the civil service of the country they had neither interest nor control.

Of course such exclusion could be justified, or divested of hardship only by the consideration that the persons preferred, were preferred on the ground of especial qualifications natural and acquired, for the posts to which they were assigned. This condition, we may add, will be provided by Mr. JENCKES's bill, and thus a widely spread cause of discontent will be removed.

Another member in opposing the bill, denied that the Government was worse served by its officers and clerks than private institutions were. He believed that there was much more fraud perpetrated by cashiers, bookkeepers, clerks, conductors and other employees of private corporations than by the holders of offices under the Government. If this assertion were true, it would imply nothing against the proposed reform. Private individuals and corporations are necessarily somewhat restricted in the selection of their employees. Besides, in making appointments they are often unavoidably influenced by considerations of a personal kind with which Government has nothing to do. Another important difference is that the employees of private concerns are, or may be, under a stricter supervision and accountability than are possible in the case of most Government officials. There are still other differences which we need not mention. But the assertion of the superior, or equal integrity of men in the Government service is not correct in fact. To the inquiry of a member, whether there were more defections among Government employees than among any other class of men, Mr. JENCKES, who has thoroughly investigated the subject, at once replied that there were ten to one. He added that "hundreds of those defections were never heard of, that clerks were constantly removed from the great Custom Houses with public money in their pockets and were never prosecuted."

Other arguments urged against the bill were its limitation of the President's appointing power, its aristocratic character in assigning offices for life, and the hardship of its provisions in establishing a standard of qualification for official position that will cut off from employment wounded soldiers and others to whom the Government owes support. As for the first of these arguments, the only limitation of the President's appointing power produced by the bill will be the limitation of superior knowledge. On the report of the Commissioners he will be enabled to proceed with intelligence, instead of assigning the offices at his disposal blindly and at hap-hazard. The aristocratic objection might once have seemed forcible to many people. At present, we suppose there are few who will be much disturbed by the odious adjective. Most people have sense enough to seek for their law and medicine from persons who devote their lives to the legal and medical professions. The cheapest and most perfect products of mechanical skill come from the hands of men whose dexterity is obtained by prolonged industry in doing one thing. And the people will, we doubt not, soon come to the conclusion that the work of the minor government offices can be most cheaply and efficiently done by men trained in it, whose professional reputation depends on its honorable performance, and whom a blunder or adishonest action may deprive of their only resource in life. The last argument, which refers to the wounded soldiers as the beneficiaries of the Government, is an affront to them and an insult to the intelligence of the people. Every man disabled in the service of the country is entitled in justice to a fulfillment of the promise under which he went to the war. A decent maintenance is his due. If qualified for a Government office, he, rather than another, is fairly entitled to the place. But to clamor for the maintenance of a rotten and pernicious system on the ground that it is a charitable institution for the benefit of wounded soldiers, is a gross outrage upon the class. It is to advocate the worst possible economy as well as the meanest charity. One thing is certain: such a reform as is contemplated by Mr. JENCKES's bill would, in a few years, save enough of the public money to pay from its interest alone liberal pensions to all in the country who have any claim upon its gratitude.

PROTEST OF THE AMERICAN BISHOPS.

One of the most interesting events in the history of the great Council thus far is, undoubtedly, the protest of the American prelates against the proclamation of the dogma of infallibility. Nor is it merely an interesting event, it is interesting because it is important. If the majority under the guidance and influence of the Black Pope, Father BECKX, the General of the Jesuits, are not utterly infatuated, we may almost expect that a protest so cogent by its reasons and so respectful in its terms, will exert a decided influence upon the action of the Council. In regard to the loyalty and entire fidelity of the American ecclesiastics to the Holy See there can be no doubt. Even the Jesuits may hardly dare to weaken the force of their protest, by asserting or insinuating that it originated in wavering allegiance or denotes incipient revolt. Indeed, we doubt not, that the signers of the paper have reluctantly yielded to the weight of reasons by which they have been constrained to take so decided a stand against the known wishes of his Holiness. There is abundant evidence that most of these bishops went to Rome prepared and even eager to do all that the head of their church should desire them to do, and that the convictions of which this protest is the result, were the gradual product of experience and observation. We quote the three reasons which they assign for "earnestly supplicating that the question on the definition of the infallibility of the Sovereign Pontiff as a dogma of faith may not be proposed to the Vatican Council:"

"*First.* Because the discussions of this question will evidently show a want of union, and especially unanimity among the bishops.

"*Second.* Because on account of the circumstances in which we are placed in consulting the faithful, we not only exist with impunity, but are dominant, take definitive, instead of altering, would alienate those whom we seek by all Christian means to lead to the bosom of Catholic unity.

"*Third.* Because we anticipate endless questions will arise in which may interpose the authority of the word of our ministry, and cause the fruits of this Council to be lost to those who are not members of the Holy Catholic Church."

A Roman Catholic ecclesiastic in this Protestant country, feels that he is essentially on missionary ground, really, though not nominally, *in partibus infidelium*, and in his character of missionary, what he has most reason to deprecate is anything that may have the effect of weakening his position. The inevitable consequences of the proposed proclamation in increasing the difficulties with which he has to contend in encountering the objections and removing the misgivings of Protestants, must long ago have become obvious to the dullest Bishop in the Council. Something, however, must be allowed for the enthusiasm of faith, and it is quite likely that, in the minds of many of the American prelates, the clear dictates of prudence and sagacity may have been neutralized, or at least weakened by the suggestions of superstition and by the belief that "the folly of man would prove the wisdom of God." This view, we know, influences many of the majority. And when one recollects the attitude of some of these American bishops towards the dogma only a few weeks ago, it is not unreasonable to suspect that Dr. J. H. NEWMAN's letter to Dr. ULLATHORNE may have had some effect in prompting the protest. Though it is notorious that Father NEWMAN has been often snubbed, and his just claims and wise suggestions ignored by continental prelates, his superiors in ecclesiastical rank, his transcendant talents are nowhere doubted, while, wherever the English language is spoken, his influence is great. Though Italian, Spanish, and French prelates may sneer at his advice or warnings, neither English nor American bishops can afford to indulge in that luxury.

SUBSIDIES TO AMERICAN SHIPPING.

Some of the business industries of the country were stimulated into unwonted activity during the war. Agriculture, manufactures and mineral resources were largely developed, and trade was turned into some new channels. Upon the whole, with a single exception, no material interest of the country has been destroyed or greatly depressed. We have traveled fast and steadily, making sure progress.

But the exception is a sad one. Before the war our sails whitened the oceans. We had vessels bound for every port. In the carrying trade we were the great rival of Britain. No country had a finer body of seamen in her merchant service. Thousands of these were transferred to the United States Navy as well fitted for the service as if they had been trained in the apprentice ship.

How is it now? Cast a glance at the shipping in New York Harbor and you will hardly see the United States flag. American commerce is almost destroyed. That admirable body of seamen from which our navy was recruited and made efficient in war has disappeared. They find no employment unless under a foreign flag.

We profess to hold Great Britain responsible for the destruction of hundreds of our ships by the Alabama and other Confederate cruisers. These claims are large, but they are as nothing compared with the great national loss of our shipping interest. Will Great Britain compensate us for that? Hundreds of American built vessels do not carry the American flag. They were constructed before or during the war, but could not go safely to sea under our flag. The consequence was they were sold and are now owned by foreigners.

It is probable that the high price of labor and of some of the materials which enter into the construction of ships, has also had an adverse effect upon shipbuilding in this country. The result is we must begin anew to build up American commerce.

We observe with satisfaction that Congress hat at last turned its attention to this subject. A bill is now pending providing subsidies for American shipping. It is proposed to pay *four* dollars per annum to the American owners for each registered ton of shipping engaged in commerce between the United States and European ports; *three* dollars per registered ton for each vessel trading to other foreign ports, except those of the British Provinces—*one dollar and fifty cents* per ton for vessels engaged in the coasting trade, or trading in the British Provinces. We hope the bill will pass. It will make a partial and tardy reparation to an interest of which we were once proud—an interest which helped to make our country great, and furnished in dire need, many of our ablest and best defenders. Give encouragement, and pay bounty, if need be, to the American ship builder too. Under this policy we may confidently look for a revival of our decayed commerce.

SHALL MRS. LINCOLN HAVE A PENSION?

The public will be pleased to learn, from the report of the Senate Committee on Pensions, that Mrs. LINCOLN's pecuniary circumstances are not so straitened as was, we think, generally believed. It seems that her share of the personal estate of her deceased husband amounted to $36,765 60, and that this sum was paid over to her in November, 1867—that her son THOMAS, better known as "TAD," still a minor, is entitled to a similar amount, now probably in the hands of a guardian. Mrs. LINCOLN received also the whole of the balance of the salary—$22,000—voted to her by Congress as the widow of President LINCOLN. Not taking into account some unproductive real estate, in which she has an interest, and excluding personal property of her own other than money, it is shown that she has received $58,765 60. Considering that the law would give her an allowance for the support, maintenance and education of her minor son out of his personal estate, it cannot be said that she is in a condition of poverty. Mrs. LINCOLN herself has not asked for a pension on the ground that her pecuniary resources are inadequate to supply her with the comforts of life, but she alleges that they are insufficient to enable her to "live in a style becoming the widow of the Chief Magistrate of a great nation, though," she adds, "I live as economically as I can."

From all this it appears that Mrs. LINCOLN is able to live in a quiet, retired and respectable way without any assistance from the Government. The question is, has she any further claim on the nation in her character of widow of ABRAHAM LINCOLN? The Committee of the Senate argue that she has not, 1st. Because she is not in poverty, and does not actually need a pension. 2d. Because it has not been deemed advisable in a free country to provide permanent emoluments in favor of the families of high (civil) officers of the State." And they conclude that neither "sentiment" nor "duty requires a further provision in accordance with the request of Mrs. LINCOLN," &c.

The committee in their argument against the allowance of a pension, express the opinion that "a fortune of $30,000, or even of *one-third* of that sum, *for a lady*, must take her out of the category of those whose necessities in consequence of the casualities of public service give them a claim upon the treasury." Reference is also made to the fact that two Ex-Presidents died in necessitous circumstances, and the Government did not interfere for their relief, or that of their families.

The above presents, we think, the whole strength of the Senate Committee's argument in opposition to the claim for a pension. It strikes us as weak and narrow. In fact it is the merest special pleading, unworthy a committee of United States Senators. The policy which refuses pensions to the families of eminent civilians, has practically driven the poor man out of the public service. No man without a fortune can afford to take office without incurring the risk of leaving his family in poverty and want. No honest public servant can save any considerable amount of money from the emoluments of his office. The result is, that offices (we mean of course the highest) are to a great extent now filled by men of wealth, and without much regard to the considerations of capacity and merit.

JAMES MONROE died in absolute poverty, his estate not being sufficient to defray the expenses of his funeral. When it is remembered that this eminent public servant, on his own personal credit, raised a large sum of money to enable General JACKSON to equip his army to meet the British at New Orleans when the Government had not a dollar for that purpose; that the United States did not repay him for years and until after his affairs had become seriously embarrassed in consequence of his credit being pledged for that money, what American citizen does not feel disgraced by his country's ingratitude? The last days of JEFFERSON's old age, too, were darkened by pecuniary troubles. We have nothing to be proud of in our treatment of public servants, the record of whose services fill the brightest pages of our national history. We have lately departed from this niggardly and disgraceful policy as respects Judges of the United States Courts. Within a year past, it has been provided by law that Judges over seventy years of age, who have served ten years, may retire on pensions equal to the salaries of their respective offices. This is simple justice to men who have given the best part of their lives to the public service. The same principle should be extended to chief magistrates of the nation, if no larger application be given to it.

President LINCOLN fell by the hand of an assassin within six weeks after his second inauguration. He died fully possessing the public confidence in the public service, and the name of WASHINGTON will hardly be more revered in the future than his. His untimely death, compassed and accomplished by assassins, *because he was President*, deprived the country of the services of a great and beloved Chief Magistrate, and his family of its head and protector. If gratitude does not impel, common justice requires the nation to provide such means of livelihood for the widow and minor child of the deceased President, as they might have enjoyed had the husband and father been spared. In plain terms, this is just the measure and limitation of the pecuniary debt we owe this family. Mrs. LINCOLN's income is about $3,500 per annum. No one will pretend that she could keep house in Washington, New York, Philadelphia or Chicago, or even in Pittsburgh, and live as people in her station of life are compelled to live, on this scanty provision. She may have means to support her in a private boarding house, or in a life of seclusion or retirement from society. It is understood that she has gone abroad because the expenses of living are less than here. Honorable Senators think that $1,200 per year is a sufficient allowance for a lady, and $3,500 an ample sum for a widow with one minor son. Wonder if any of the Senators has a grown up daughter, and if so, what it costs him to maintain her in Washington society! Wonder if any Senator can procure such a house as he is willing to live in at Washington for $1,200 a year or even $2,000. A pension of $3,000 for Mrs. LINCOLN would be scant enough provision for her, added to her present personal means. We hope the House bill will pass, notwithstanding the adverse report of the Committee. Whether Mrs. L's. conduct, before or since the death of her husband, has been unexceptionable or the reverse, has nothing whatever to do with the question. Some people think she ought to live in seclusion, and others object to her selling her wardrobe. It is not probable that she will be able to please every Mrs. GRUNDY. When the government shall have done justice to the widow of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the public may or may not have the right to prescribe rules for her walk and conversation. The lady may have foibles and weaknesses. Who has not? It is possible that some of her severest critics, if subjected to equal trials, might appear to no better advantage.

TO ALL who consider the subject coolly and without prejudice, Fenianism must appear the most curious historical phenomenon of the present day. It may be easy to assign a reason or a catalogue of reasons for its existence, but the peculiarity of the subject is that the rational explanation of it fails to divest it of any of its mystery. Many centuries of misgovernment and oppression on the part of the English rulers of the island, obvious indications of a disposition to relax or change their odious policy in deference to the spirit of the times, with the consequence of stimulating the sentiment of resistance in the oppressed, and the certainty of sympathy for attempts of the kind among a strong party in the United States, all these are elements which partly at least serve to account for the movement. We do not believe, however, that they throw much light upon the matter except as they are viewed in connection with the peculiarities of the Celtic character. And rightly considered, these peculiarities of character we suppose to furnish the required explanation of the long duration of the very evils which Fenianism proposes to abolish. With respect to the features of Celtic character to which we allude, no details are needed to make our meaning clear. It is sufficient to refer our readers to what has been written on the wrongs of Ireland by the friends as well as by the enemies of reform. Celtic eccentricities have been as clearly and fully described, and their deplorable consequences as freely admitted by the champions of Ireland against the Saxon, as by the most zealous defenders of the English domination. But, perhaps, the practical absurdities, the monstrous inconsequence and reckless perversion, of which the Celtic nature is capable, were never so strikingly exemplified as in our own time by the Fenian policy. The theory that the leaders of the succession of Fenian movements in this country have been and are mere scoundrels, is not satisfactory. Though this seems to be the prevalent view among outsiders, one cannot receive it without hesitation. Large numbers of men of some intelligence maintained in idleness and luxury, calling themselves Captains, Generals, Secretaries of State, and so forth: schemes of war against England, utterly absurd and certain to result in ridiculous failures, even though attempted with secrecy; notorious absence of harmony among the supporters of these laughable enterprises, and a style of discourse universal among them, that would cover the most respectable undertakings with scorn and contempt; these are obvious features of American Fenianism, but not the most repulsive features. The funds by which this prolonged farce is maintained is chiefly derived from a class who can least afford to waste their earnings. Day laborers and servant girls are the principal contributors to the Fenian treasury, and we cannot doubt that the money is drawn from them by appeals to their most worthy feelings. It is also known that, in thus giving away their hardly won wages, they act against the advice, and often against the earnest warnings of their proper guides and spiritual teachers. Impartially looked at, the whole system, so irresistably comical from one point of view, so pitiable from another, has so much the appearance of a gigantic fraud, a mere swindling operation on a scale never before seen, that it is difficult to avoid the conclusion. The conclusion, however, presents difficulties, and charity, if not in wisdom, would prefer to regard these Fenian leaders as genuine patriots of the true Celtic type. It is manifestly unfair to judge them by any foreign standard. The verse, long ago laughed at for its absurdity, is strictly true of these men,

"None but themselves can be their parallel."

Though extraordinary men, they are only extraordinary in their generation. The history of Ireland is full of them, and whoever reads the history of Ireland without recognizing the fact, will find it an unintelligible narrative. This view of the subject of Fenianism, if it has any root in fact or reason, is interesting as calling attention to a type of charcter among ourselves represented by hundreds of thousands in the mother island, who constitute the hard knot in the Irish problem with which Mr. GLADSTONE has to deal.

MR. HOLMAN, of Indiana, asserted in the House of Representatives, a few days ago, that more than one hundred and seventy bills were then pending, the result of which, if adopted, would be to appropriate more than two hundred and fifty millions of acres of the public land. The bill in the Senate under discussion and which was presently passed by a vote of ninety-seven against sixty-nine, assigned 940,000 acres to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from Portland to Astoria and Mc Minnville in Oregon. A large proportion of the bills referred to are in favor of railroad and other corporations. It is stated, we suppose, truly that to such organizations, in the last ten years, a hundred and fifty millions of acres of the public land have been granted.

But little reflection is necessary to enable every citizen to comprehend the importance of this subject of the distribution or assignment of the public lands. Years ago, it was a matter of prolonged and earnest controversy among the statesmen and politicians of the country But the points then made possess little interest for the present generation. With us the only vital question seems to be the policy of appropriating territory to great corporations, and in regard to this method of distribution there is neither as much unanimity nor as much precision of views as one might reasonably have expected to exist on a subject of the kind. The absence of harmony of opinion, perhaps the absence of mature and intelligent consideration of the question, may be inferrible from a single fact. On the 21st of March the House of Representatives adopted a resolution declaring that the system of granting public lands to railroads and other corporations should be discontinued, and on the 29th of April the same House, by a large vote, made an assignment which not two months before it had pronounced impolitic. Consistency, however beautiful, is not always admirable, and it is sometimes true wisdom to reverse one's action, on increase of knowledge. But really it would appear that a body of men selected from the entire population of the country on the score of their superior intelligence, ought to have made up their minds about a matter of such wide-reaching concern as the one involved in these acts. Did the Lobby make them change their minds?

To private citizens, interested in politics only as they desire the welfare of their country, it would surely be a great comfort to see by their course in Congress that their chosen representatives thoroughly understand and feel themselves competent to deal with the great railroad interest. No well informed citizen is ignorant that it is a subject of great complications, and that the troubles of the future to which it is likely to give rise, demand intelligent attention in the present.

Whatever fear or misgivings as to the future control and influence of the roads may disturb the people, we believe they are upon the whole favorable to judicious appropriation, even to corporations, for railroad and telegraph purposes. Declamatory arguments like those with which Mr. HOLMAN occupied the attention of the House a few days ago, make no impression on the popular mind. All such appeals are sufficiently met and answered by the fact that the vast territories of the West are most effectually opened up and made accessible to settlers by the railroads which the appropriations cause to be built. The laboring men who have emigrated or purpose to emigrate into those new regions are all favorable to the roads, almost without consideration of the cost. General principles and remote consequences are for the meditation and action of Congress.

ANY decided subsidence of the excitement existing in France may not reasonably be expected to take place before the vote of the eighth of May. Even the brief statements about French affairs given by the cable can hardly fail to be interesting for some time to come. Alarms of conspiracy and general apprehensions of a scheme, or schemes to get rid of the Emperor in the interest of democracy and socialism, are so evidently adapted to enlist the support of the friends of order as opposed to anarchy, that the prevalent suspicion of agency on the part of the Government in causing them, can not be called unreasonable. Undoubtedly the Emperor, in his appeal to the people, has much at stake. Though he may be, and doubtless is sure of a majority, a bare majority, or even a smaller affirmative vote than sustained him in former appeals would be a calamity. At the same time, it is hardly reasonable to doubt that a conspiracy, and probably more than one are on foot. To regard all M. OLIVIER's statements on the subject as mere fictions, or tricks of statecraft, would be inconsistent with his established reputation for integrity. Such wholesale misrepresentation would be more than a blot on his honesty, more than a crime, it would be a blunder. In fact, the careful reader of M. FLOURENS's intercepted letter, published in the cable dispatches yesterday, must consider it as admitting the most damaging interpretation put upon it by the police. The intimacy it incidentally discloses between the author and the London correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, will be very flattering to the gentlemen of that paper. Several times lately the London letter of the *Tribune* has mentioned M. FLOURENS in very kind terms, and once for the purpose of correcting a common misapprehension of his character. However, it told the world nothing new. M. GUSTAVE FLOURENS, we doubt not, is one of the numerous class whose hearts are better than their heads. His impulses are in favor of freedom, perhaps, to the extent of leaving everybody to do what may seem right in their own eyes. He is an enthusiast for liberty as an end, without much respect for other considerations. Certainly, no person who took note of his proceedings in connection with the attempt to initiate a revolution in favor of his friend ROCHEFORT, and of his efforts to induce young conscripts to ruin themselves by desertion, under circumstances that made escape impossible, can look with much admiration or respect upon his revolutionary labors. He seems also very likely to have done what his letter indicates, viz: encourage others to engage in desperate or even sanguinary enterprises, while himself safe on the other side of the channel. The English Government will hardly comply with the alleged demand for his extradition. He may, however, be tried in England as SIMON BERNARD was tried in 1858.

JUST at the present time the attention of most reading people is, we suppose, turned, more or less, to the subject of insanity, by the great trial for weeks going on in New York. No doubt, in the discussion destined to be provoked by the verdict of the jury, much will be said about the conditions and phenomena of the disease, and about the amount and nature of the proofs required to establish its existence in any instance. In connection with this subject some interest attaches to the case of M. DE PUYPARLIER, mentioned in late foreign papers. On the ground of monomania he was pronounced incapable of managing his own property, and was placed in confinement in Paris, where he lived. In regard to the propriety of this treatment, his family were divided in opinion. Though he had been examined by specialists and duly certified as insane, some of his friends, dissatisfied with the decision, had him brought before the proper court, that his condition might be again inquired into. M. PUYPARLIER conducted himself with perfect propriety at the audience, but took advantage of the withdrawal of attention from himself by the interest of the debate on his case, to mingle quietly with the crowd and make his escape. His next proceeding strikes us as having been difficilties, and in character, if not in wisdom, we prefer to regard these Fenian leaders as genuine patriots of the true Celtic type. It is manifestly unfair to judge them by any foreign standard. The verse, long ago laughed at for its absurdity, is strictly true of these men,

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